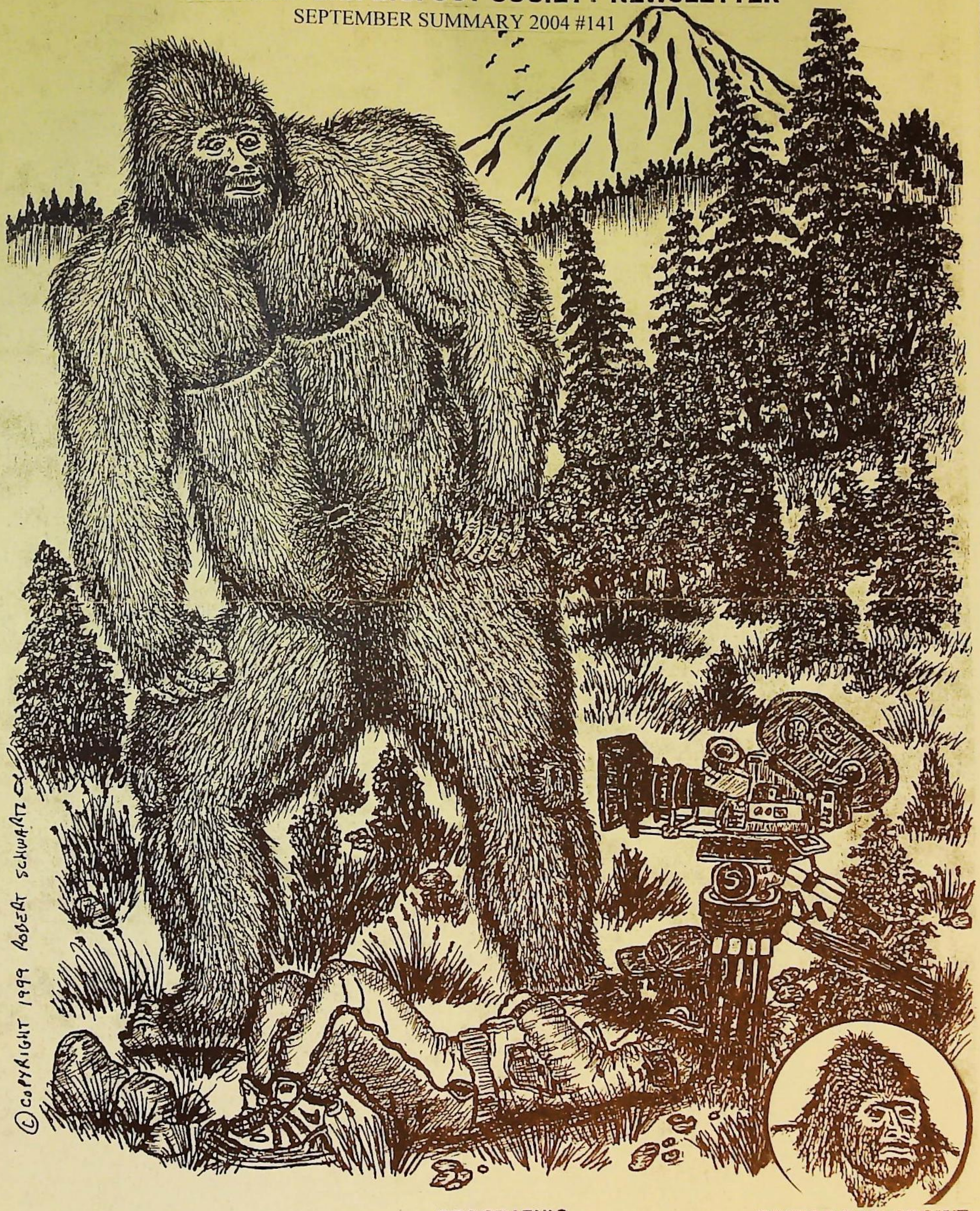
THE TRACK RECORD

THE WESTERN BIGFOOT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER SUMMARY 2004 #141

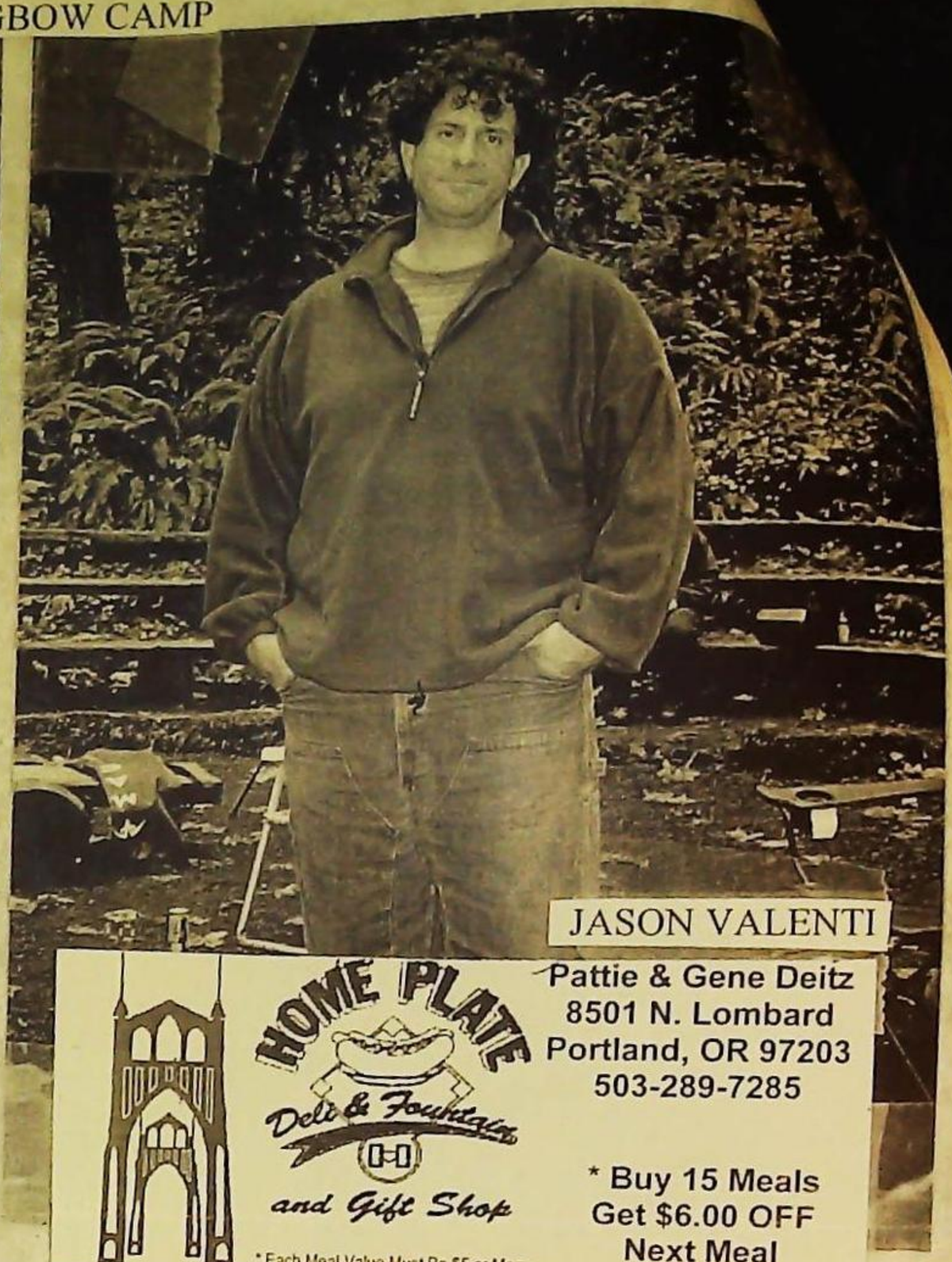


GEOGRAPHIC

EDITOR RAY CROWE

AT LONGBOW CAMP

DON STROM (BF), AND OPHELIA TACTAY



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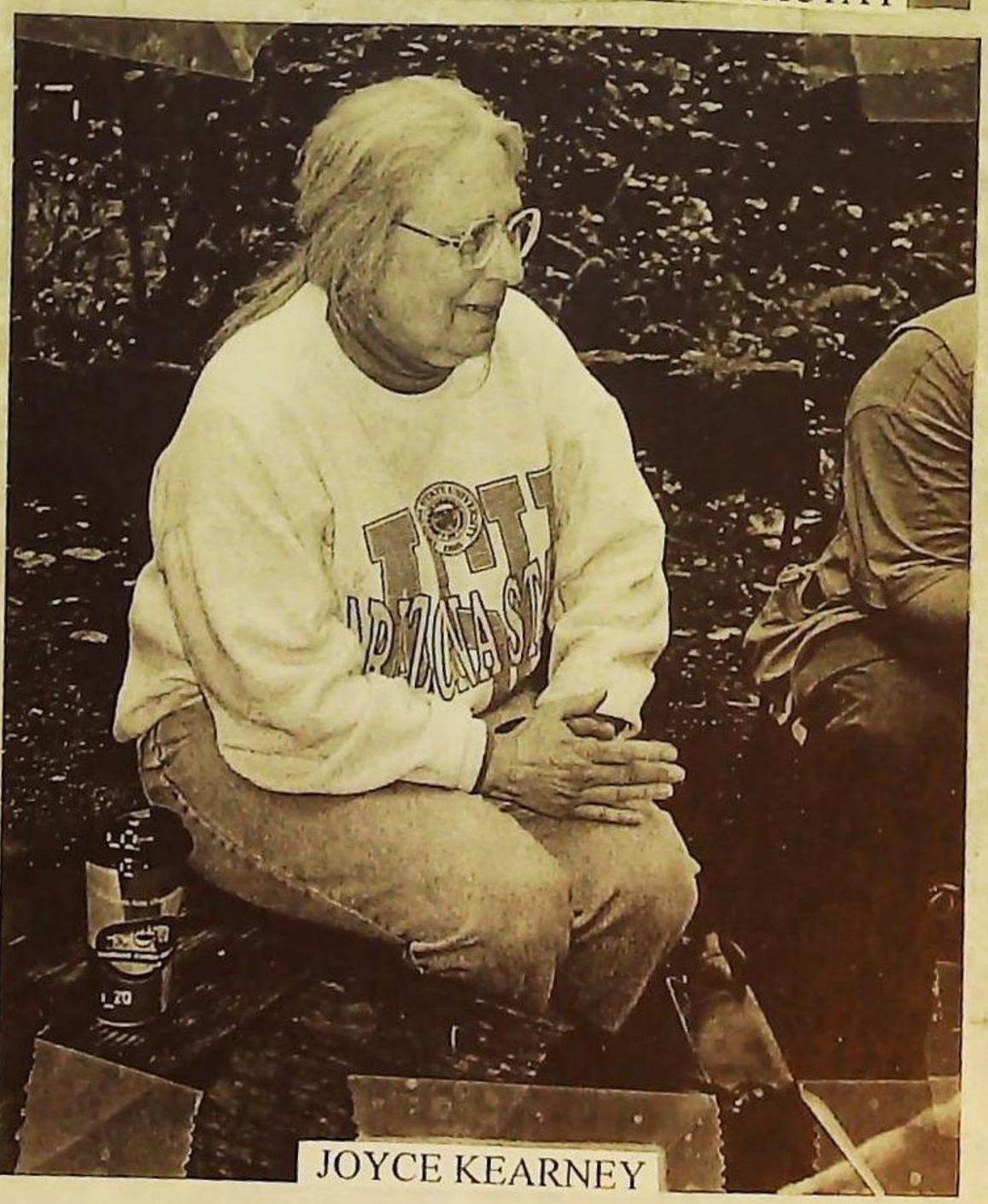
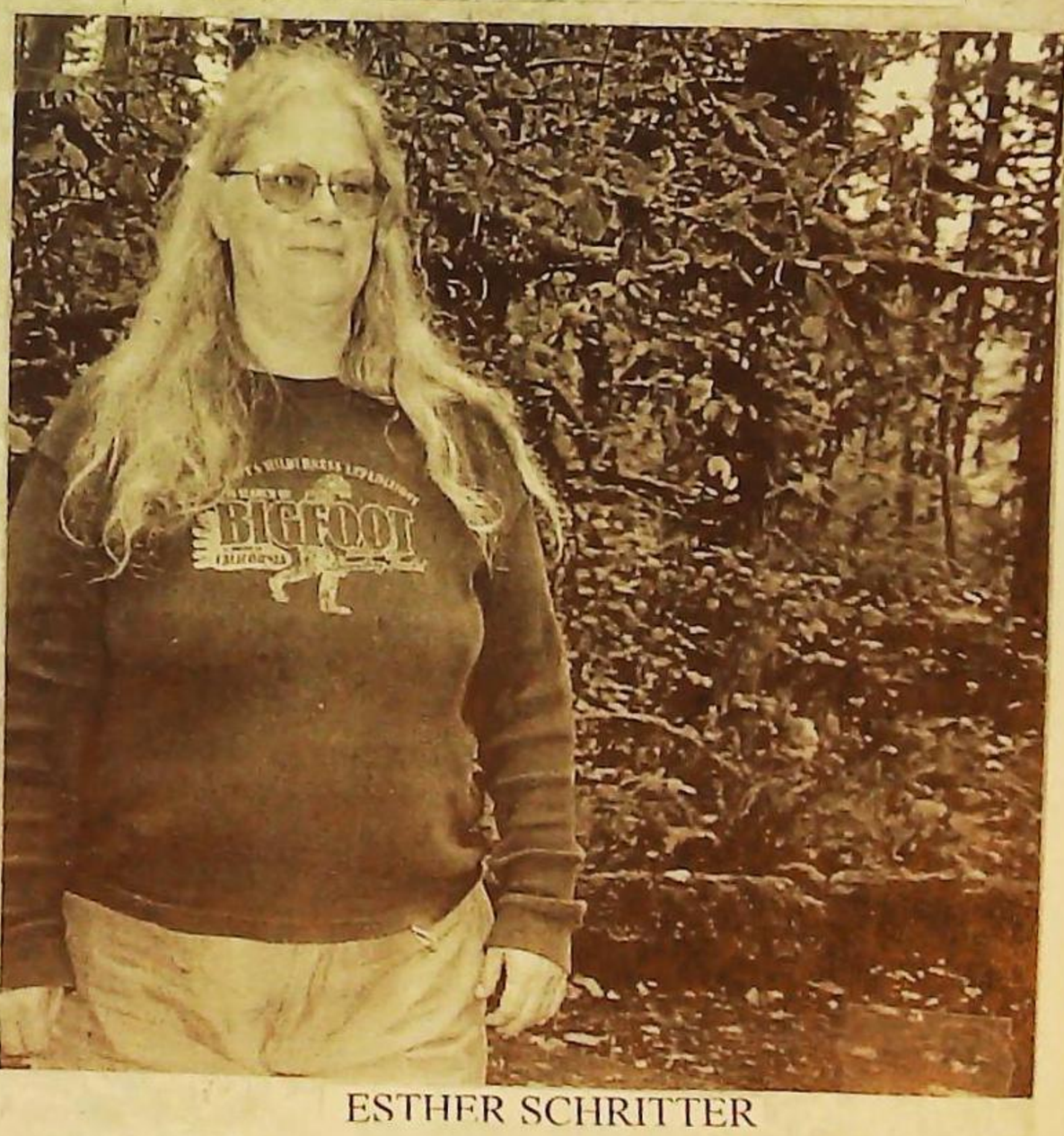


JOYCE KEARNEY



ESTHER SCHRITTER

The Track Record

The International Bigfoot Society™ Newsletter
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Issue 141 September Summary, 2004, $20.00 year (10 issues), $30.00 foreign, post paid. There is no November or December summary, 225 NE 30th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124-7055; Phone: (503) 640-6581 Email: RayCrowe@netzero.net , Vice President: Patti Reinhold, 1086 46th Ave, Sweet Home, OR 97386 541-367-2359. Other board members: Terry Reams, Keith Ardinger, Diane Demers. The WBS is a tax-exempt, non profit organization, 501(c)3, your tax-deductible donations are appreciated #93-1181554 Copyright Sept 2004 InternationalBigfootSociety.com Domain name.Webmaster Robert Murdock; robert@digitaledge.com

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MAKE CHECKS TO RAY CROWE PLEASE I DON'T HAVE A BANK ACCOUNT TO WBS, IBS, TRACK RECORD, ETC...MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO RAY CROWE...PLEASE!!

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* REMEMBER...WE NEED YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOW... POST OFFICE THROWS AWAY BULK MAIL. Sorry, I can't replace if lost due to address change. Back order is sometimes possible.

MEETING

REGULAR MEETING DATE IS LAST SATURDAY OF MONTH, at Home Plate, 8501 N. Lombard, Portland. Dinner at 6PM and meet at 7PM (no indoor meeting in July, Aug., Nov. or Dec.) Next regular meeting Apr 24th at Dad's, a Saturday. All invited. Free to the public.

Note: the Home Plate is our new permanent location for the WBS. A podium, Bigfoot related products and books, and some display items will be featured by owner Patty Dietz.

MEETING STUFF

* September 10, 11, and 12 we had our annual Pow-Wow/Potlatch gathering at Longbow Forest Camp near Sweet Home, Oregon. The park and festivities were managed by WBS Vice President Patti Reinhold, and her husband Bob. As usual, they did a splendid job, and even the weather cooperated.

There were several speakers around the campfire, and even an 8 foot 5 inch Bigfoot in attendance (wore stilts) to amuse everybody.

The local newspaper from Sweet Home did an excellent job of reporting, staff writer Sean C. Morgan not missing a beat (look in this issue for a reprint-The New Era. Sept 15).

WEAR YOUR SKEPTICALS WHEN READING REPORTS

Patti Reinhold has reserved the Longbow camp for July 9-10th, 2005, so, be ready for next years activities...speakers, let us know if you can attend.

PETER BYRNE VISIT

Long time WBS member Peter Byrne called, and said he would be in town (from Los Angeles) and would like to get the members together for a special meeting Friday, Sept. 24th.

We had our first meeting at Patty's Home Plate in North Portland, and it was apparently a success, as we had an excellent turn out. Peter was able to visit individually with the members, and discuss old times with many of the members who hadn't been around in a long while.

As most of the WBS/IBS officers were present: Patti Reinhold, Kieth Ardinger, Diane DeMers, and myself (Terry Reams did not make the meet), we had a brief meeting. The topic was, the old Dad's Club had started dinners again and had invited the WBS back for meetings. We sort of liked where we were though, and voted to continue having meetings at the Home Plate, where there was less cigarette smoke and cleaner rest rooms...including a specially designed one for wheelchairs, which I was in. There are also numerous items for sale and browsing, and Patty says she'll start featuring Bigfoot items.

Unfortunately, the meeting was marred by the death of my wife Theata on the 21st. She used to be present at all the meetings to help with the hosting. My Cousin, Diane Demers and her daughter Holly had been transporting me to events, and proved to be invaluable.

Also, Larry Lund was absent. His mother Bonnie was very ill, and passed away the next day.

BIGFOOT REPORTS

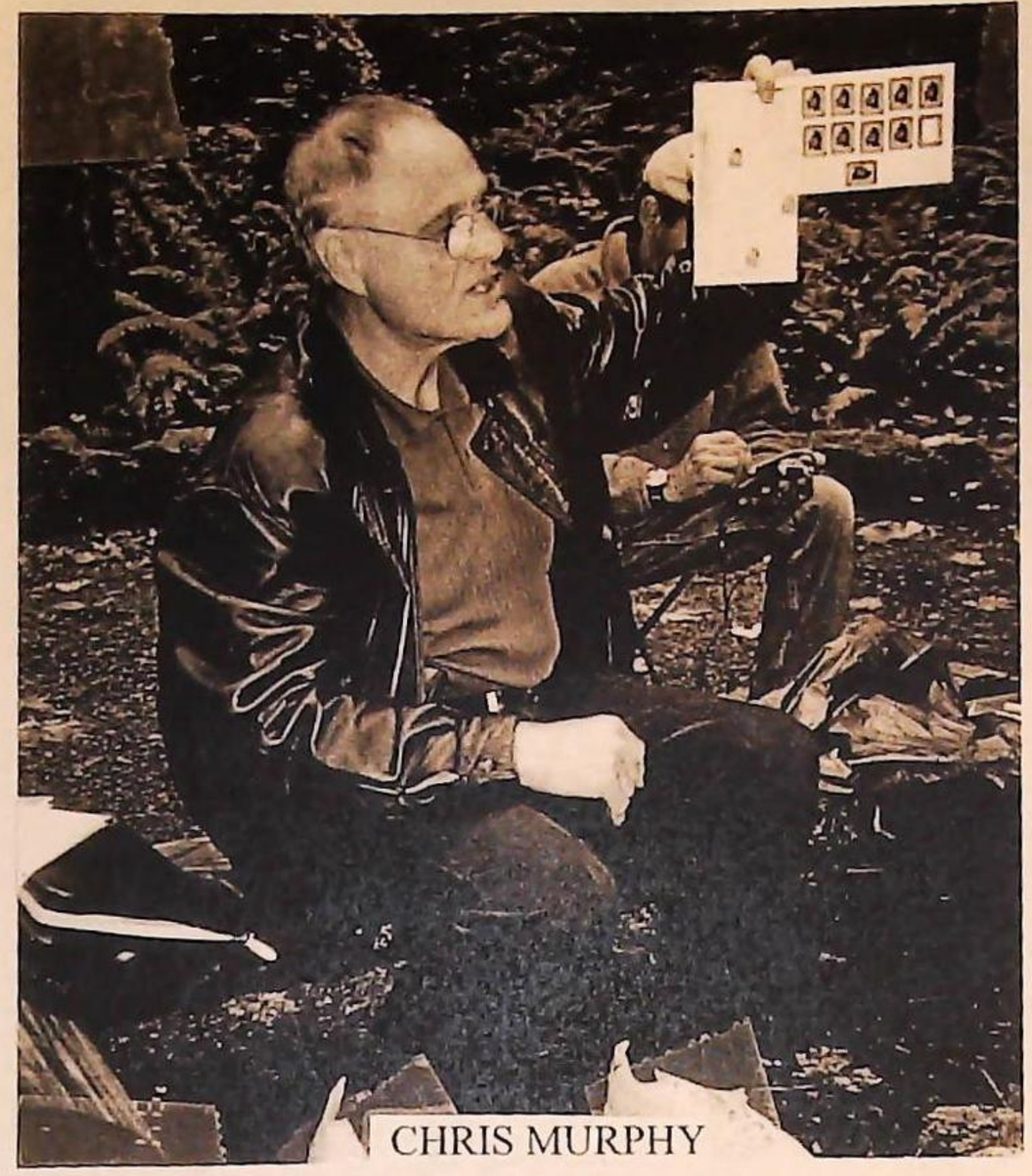
* Karen May, 1575 Alfred Way, Yuba City, CA 95993, 530-673-3505 califb@sbcglobal.net

Can you contact: Yes, Can you publish: yes
Sighting info: Date: Sep 21, 2004, Time: 5:45 AM

At the far end of Oroville Dam (Butte County, CA) where the road dead ends about 200 ft. past the boat launch parking lot. Steep mountainous terrain thick with oak and pine trees and manzanita brush, etc. I was parked above and to the West of the spillway and where the Feather River exits Oroville Lake.

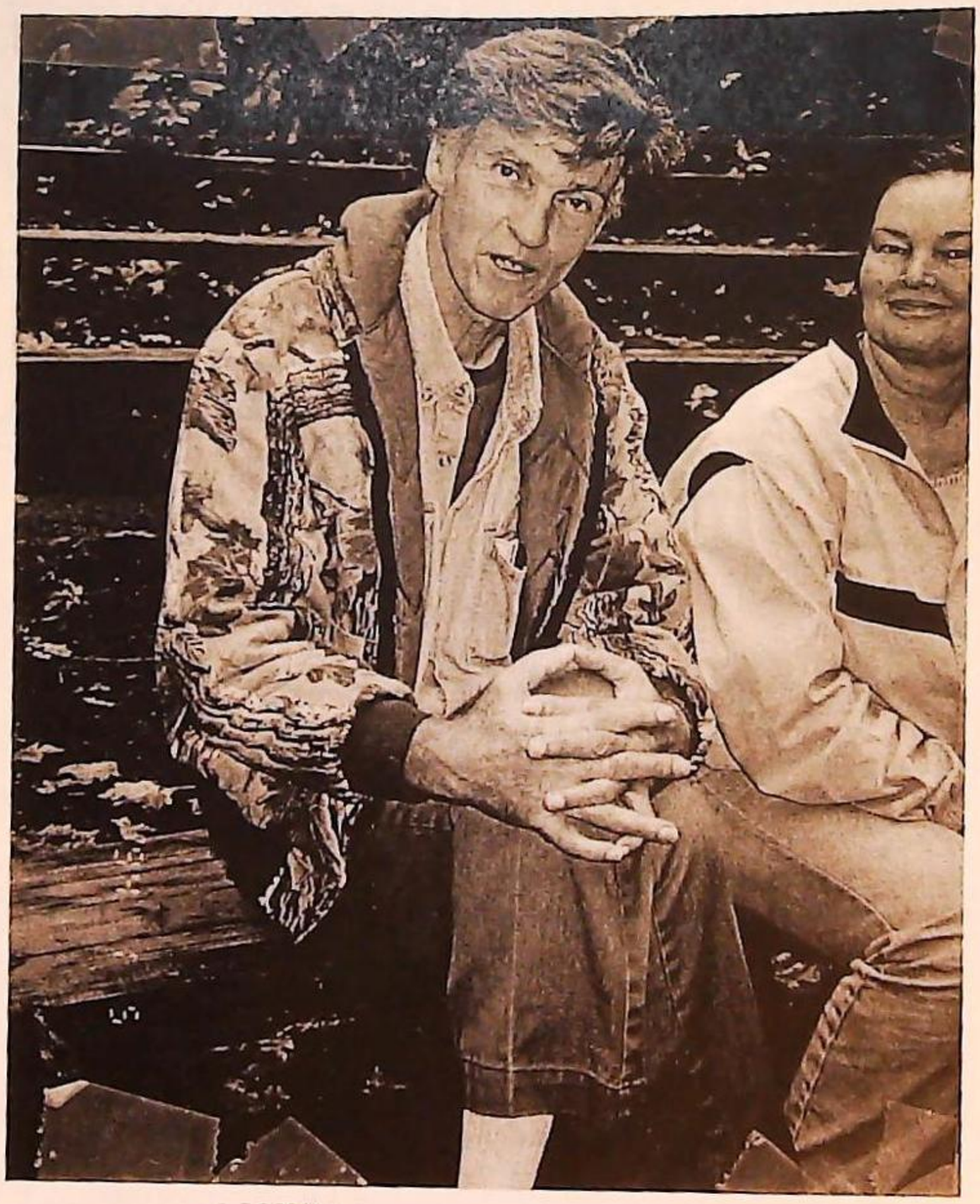
Actions of reporter: Sitting in my pick up truck looking at the view of the valley lights. I had a camera with me and had been taking photos but was so startled and frightened by the sound, I just fled without even considering trying to take a picture of whatever it was.

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, September 21, 2004 I drove up to Oroville Dam (approx. 25 miles from my house) in my 4 wd pickup to see if I could get any photographs of the lights of the Valley before sunrise. I drove across the top of the dam stopping a couple of times

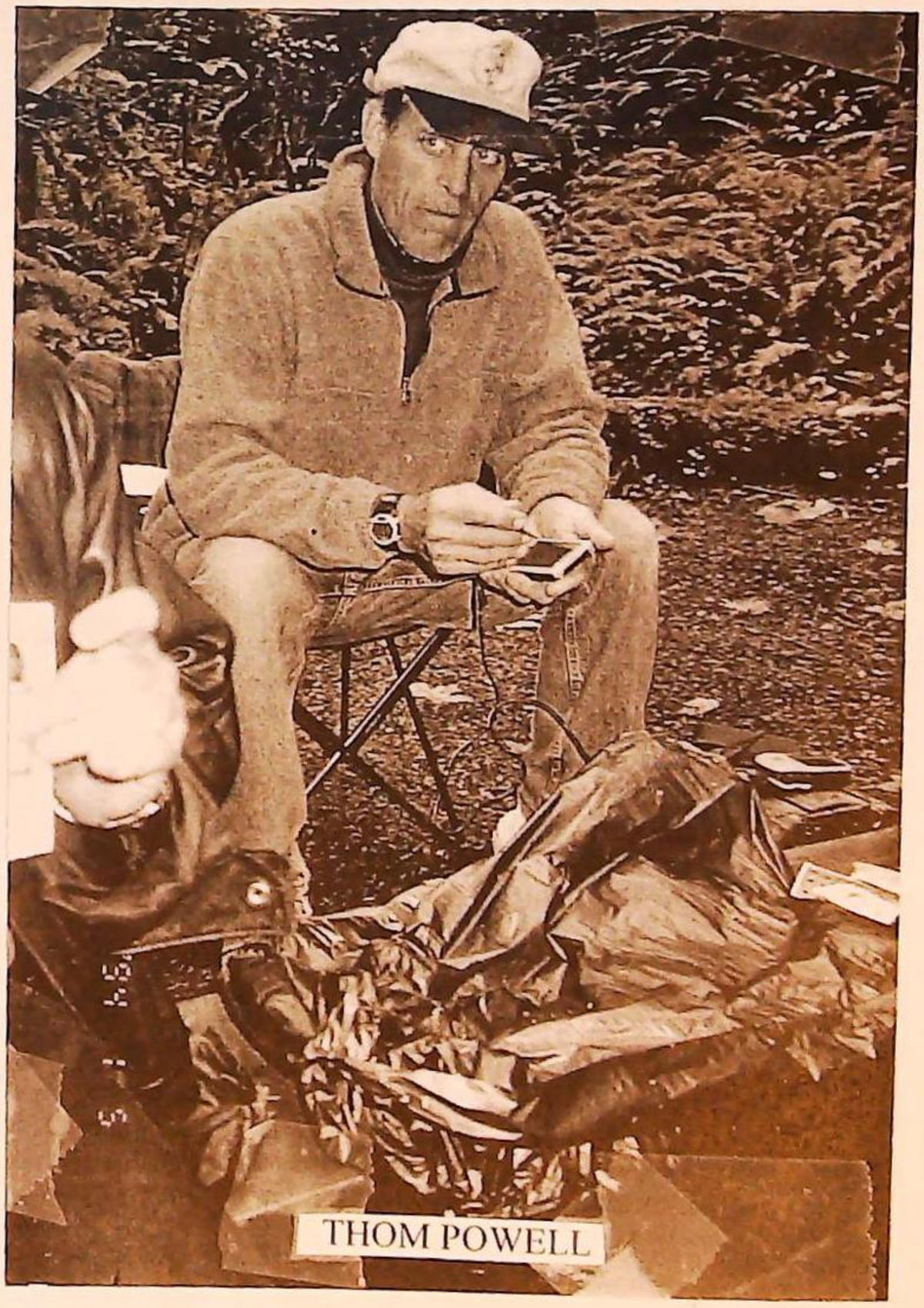


CHRIS MURPHY

THOMAS STEENBURG



RONNIE AND ELDEEN ROSEMAN



THOM POWELL

to take photos. On the far end of the dam the roadway drops down and crosses the spillway and then continues along a ridge for about 1500 feet before dead ending in a small cul-de-sac. It was extremely dark at the end of the road since the sun was not yet up and the cul-de-sac is against the mountain side to the North and North East sides. I turned my truck around stopped with my truck pointing toward the South West looking out over the Valley. My passenger side window was rolled all the way up but the driver side window was down. I had only been sitting there a couple of minutes when I heard a loud very angry sounding "roar" coming very rapidly toward the back of my truck on the passenger side. I ! was quite startled (to say the least.. I think I might have screamed) and immediately looked back toward the direction of the sound but could not see anything but blackness. I then threw my truck into gear and took off rolling up my window as quickly as possible. It has been less then 48 hours since the incident happened and I am still very upset and more then a little traumatized. What frightened me the most was that the sound came from above the height of the cab of my truck and nowhere near the ground. It began behind me near the far edge of the cul-de-sac lasted about three to four seconds then ended abruptly right at the back of my truck near the tail light on the passenger side. I could tell that whatever was making the sound was approaching very quickly. The sound was quite loud and very angry sounding and can only be described as a cross between a lions roar and the sound a tire makes spinning in deep gravel. I have never heard anything that sounded like it before in! my life. The thought that my window was down and that it could have easily attacked me is very upsetting. I do not know whether it was a bigfoot or not, I have since found out that there are no bears near Oroville Lake. The sound was a very aggressive and threatening type of roar.

* "Decobert.Olivier." Sept 6, 2004
Decobert.Olivier@wanadoo.fr

My travels on Vancouver Island were wonderful, and I saw many big animals like grizzlies (on the Canadian coast - Knight Inlet), blacks bears (Knight Inlet and Strathcona Park), orcas, seals, humpback whales and bald eagles (Johnson strait). See http://perso.wanadoo.fr/vnh/Templates/vancouver_island.htm for photos. I found cougar prints on Long beach, near Tofino. I also saw totems with "Dsonoqua" (wild woman). Nothing about sasquatch, but I heard a scream in the woods at night (9 PM) near Campbell River which sounded much like some sasquatch recordings I found on the Internet... Nevertheless, it was too far away to be conclusive.

Jean Roche contacted me to inform of a "gorilla" sighting in the South-East of France last week-end. Policemen found a print (30 centimeters). We try to find out more (bipedal or quadrupedal ?). See http://permanent.nouvelobs.com/societe/20040906.OBS6291.html for information in French.

Next month, I will try to contact the laboratory man for DNA analysis on Fox hair.

* Babelfish translation for above gorilla report
Park with the gorilla in Drôme

A primate would have been located twice in the night of Saturday to Sunday close to Saou, in Drôme. The gendarmerie raised a print.
It was impressed by the primate some 30 centimetres long and was raised by the gendarmes, making testimony on the presence of an orang-outang or from a gorilla in the night of Saturday, September 4 to Sunday September 5, close to Saou (Drôme), one learned Monday September 6 near the gendarmerie.

Sunday September 5, four people who were in the same car affirmed to have seen at the edge of a road a "orang-outang of the size of a man", between 1h am and 2am of the morning. This one would have immediately taken refuge in a wood after their passage.

One hour later, two Netherlanders which circulated on this same road made notice of the presence of a gorilla, which also escaped.

Aggressive animal

Following these testimonies, of the gamekeepers and gendarmes, discovered in this sector, Sunday September 5, a print of primate a 30 centimetres length. The local brigades continued their research Monday September 6.

The gendarmerie calls some with the prudence on behalf of the walkers, these animals being able to show itself "aggressive to defend their territory".
No circus announced the disappearance of one of its animals, according to the gendarmerie. The private detention of the gorillas and orangs-outans, protected by Convention from Washington on the animals and vegetable species threatened of extinction, is in addition subjected to "Draconian" rules, points out the gendarmerie.

* DORREEN YELLOW BIRD COLUMN:
Posted on Tue, Sep. 07, 2004
Tales of Sightings Lend Credence to Bigfoot Myth

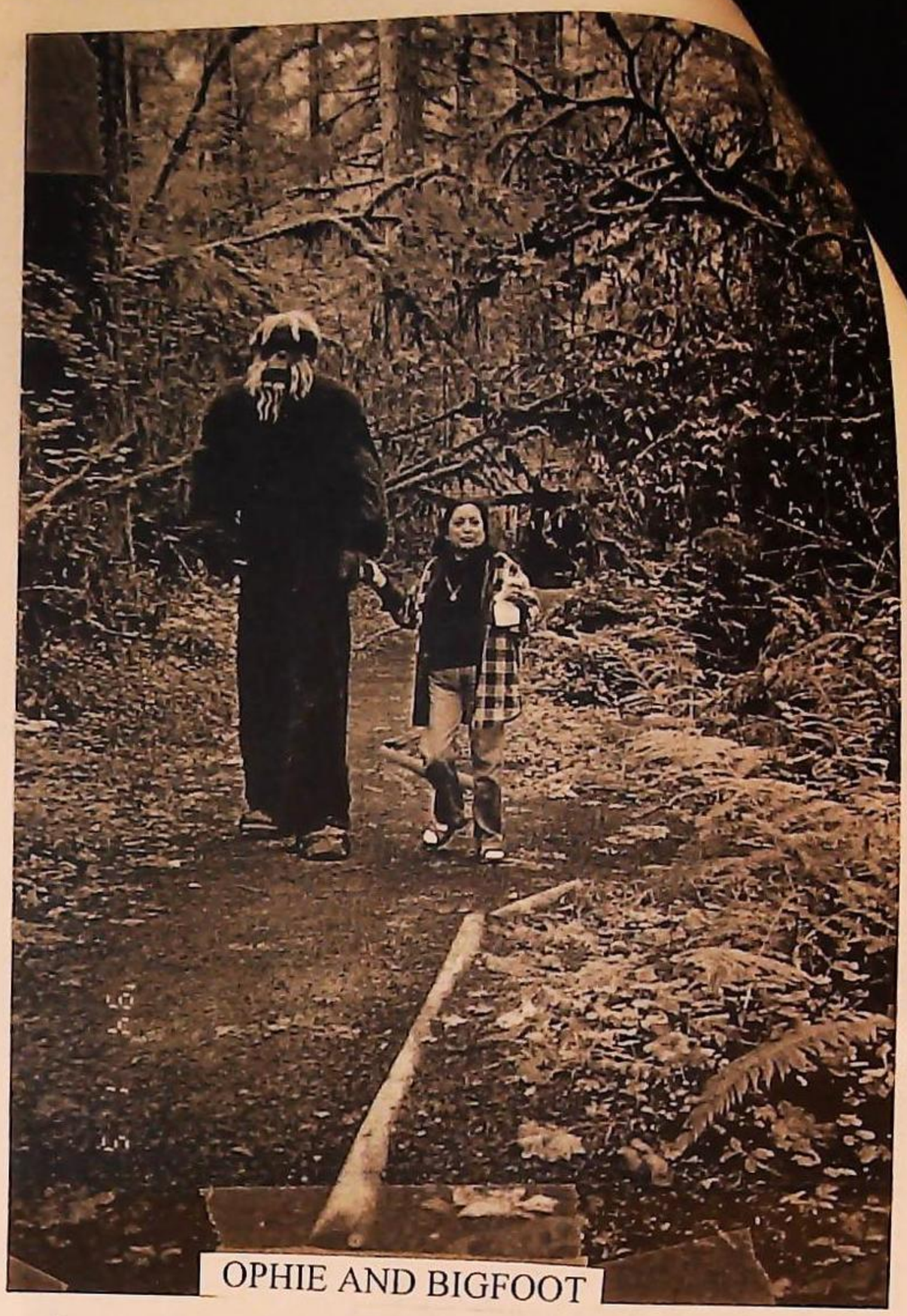
On my recent trip to the Bitterroot and Salmon River mountains in Montana and Idaho, I heard some chilling stories about sightings of Bigfoot or Sasquatch. Do these and other stories I've heard about this so-called myth have any credibility?

It seems so. Some of the Nez Perce people made me think there may be truth to the tales of Sasquatch...When I stayed with my adopted Nez Perce relatives, we spent a lot of time visiting. They are storytellers - tellers of real-life stories.This is one of their Sasquatch accounts.

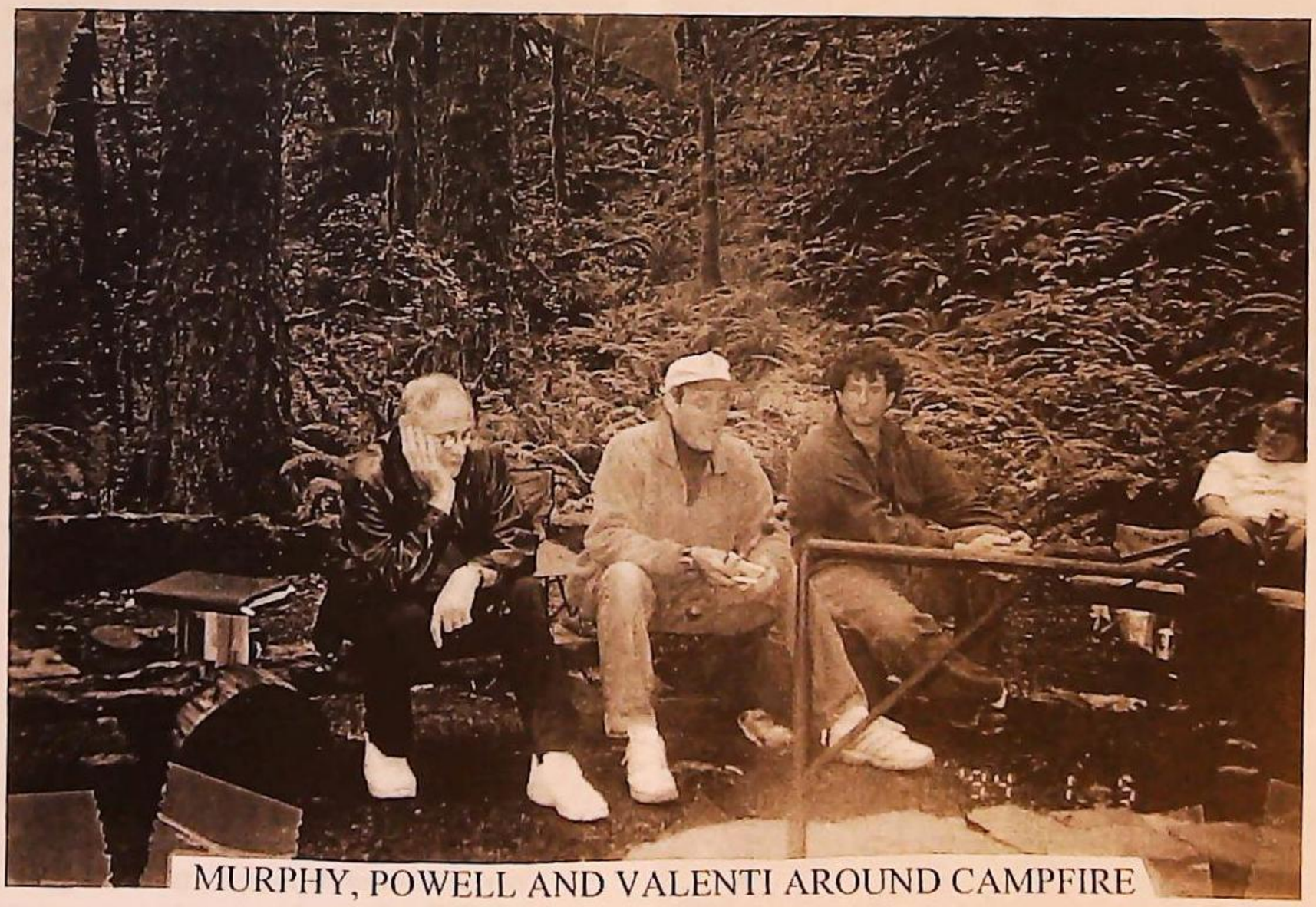
When Muriel and her father, Allen, were driving to work a few years ago, they came upon an unexpected sight. They were heading for a nearby town some 60 miles west of Kamiah, Idaho, where they live, she said. This is mountainous country. On a large mountainlike hill next to the road, Muriel, who was on the passenger side of the car, said she saw a large animal on the hillside. At first she thought it was a cow grazing, she said. It was bending over and suddenly stood up. It looked like a giant, hairy man. It turned its body toward them and looked human. When it saw them, it ran.

With only a few strides, it was over this steep hill. They stopped and walked to the spot where they saw what they assume was Bigfoot or Sasquatch. They found the spot and it looked as though the creature had been digging roots. There are roots on the reservations that the Nez Perce harvest and use for eating, making mats and so on. They measured its footprints on the ground. The prints looked like those of human feet, except much, much bigger.

VP PATTI REINHOLD



OPHIE AND BIGFOOT



MURPHY, POWELL AND VALENTI AROUND CAMPFIRE

Muriel covered the same ground over the hill, following the footprints it made in the ground. The beast made it in three or four strides. It took her at least 5 minutes to cover the same ground.

There have been many reports of Bigfoot or Sasquatch in that area, but people often don't feel comfortable telling their story because the public doesn't believe them.

A spiritual leader who also was hearing that story said it is true, there are indeed these manlike beasts. He also has seen, heard and smelled them.

This was on the West Coast, he said. It was a place where the Sasquatch frequently are seen. He was taken to the place by people who wanted him to see them. They know where the Bigfoot is and keep that home a secret, he said. He and his friends waited for the chance to see them. I don't think that at that point, he was convinced Sasquatch was real.

But while he was waiting, he heard noises in the trees, he said. And before he heard them, he could smell them. They smelled awful.

And when they came into view, they were as people had reported: large, hairy beasts with long arms, but not gorillas, he said. The creatures made low guttural sounds as if they were talking, but the spiritual leader couldn't understand any of the words.

He got a good look.

When these manlike beasts had left, this man and his friends examined the area where they had been. They found footprints that were three times the size of a human's. The footprints were shaped like a human foot, he said.

They also didn't report their sightings to anyone. They are best left alone he said.

I believe there are many things beyond our understanding. I believe my grandmother was right when she told her grandchildren, "it is a fool who thinks they know everything and have seen everything." There are things that are strange to us because we aren't familiar with them, but that doesn't mean they're make-believe. Perhaps way up there in those dense mountain ranges, these man-like creatures have thrived. Or, perhaps not.

*http://www.bigfootencounters.com/legends/jwburns.htm, Bobbie Short Website. What happened to Serephine Long. Before doing so, however, I should explain that among the natives of Canada - both Indians and Eskimos - there is a shortage of marriageable girls. Probably a similar condition exists among the sasquatch, thus explaining the action of the wild giant in this case. I should also like to add that although her present day photograph hardly bears this out, the evidence of her contemporaries goes to show that in her girlhood, Serephine Long was considered one of the most comely girls in her tribe. Here is the story:

"I was walking toward home one day many years ago carrying a big bundle of cedar roots and thinking of the young brave Qualac (Thunderbolt), I was soon to marry. Suddenly, at a place where the bush grew close and thick beside the trail, a long arm shot out and a big hairy hand was pressed over my mouth. Then I was suddenly lifted up into the arms of a young sasquatch. I was terrified, fought, and struggled with all my might. In those days, I was strong. But it was no good, the wild man was as powerful as a young bear. Holding me easily under one arm, with his other hand he smeared tree gum over my eyes, sticking them shut so that I could not see where he was taking me. He then lifted me to his shoulder and started to run. He ran on and on for a long long time - up and down hills, through thick brush, across many streams never stopping to rest. Once he had to swim a river and then perhaps I could have gotten away, but I was so afraid of being drowned that I held on tightly with my arms about his neck. Although I was frightened I could not but admire his easy breathing, his great strength and speed of foot. After reaching the other side of the river, he began to climb and climb. Presently the air became very cold. I could not see but I guessed that we were close to the top of a mountain."

"At last the sasquatch stopped hurrying, then he stooped over and moved slowly as if feeling his way along a tunnel. Presently he laid me down very gently and I heard people talking in a strange tongue I could not understand. The young giant next wiped the sticky tree gum from my eyelids and I was able to look around me. I sat up and saw that I was in a great big cave. The floor was covered with animal skins, soft to touch and better preserved that we preserve them. A small fire in the middle of the floor gave all the light there was. As my eyes became accustomed to the gloom I saw that beside the young giant who had brought me to the cave there were two other wild people - a man and a woman. To me, a young girl, they seemed very very old, but they were active and friendly and later I learned that they were the parents of the young sasquatch who had stolen me. When they all came over to look at me I cried and asked them to let me go. They just smiled and shook their heads. From then on I was kept a close prisoner; not once would they let me go out of the cave. Always one of them stayed with me when the other two were away."

"They fed me well on roots, fish and meat. After I had learned a few words of their tongue, which is not unlike the Douglas dialect, I asked the young giant how he caught and killed the deer, mountain goats and sheet that he often brought into the cave. He smiled, opening and closing his big hairy hands. I guessed that he just laid in wait and when an animal got close enough, - he leaped, caught it and choked it to death. He was certainly big enough, quick enough and strong enough to do so."

"When I had been in the cave for about a year I began to feel very sick and weak and could not eat much. I told this to the young sasquatch and pleaded with him to take me back to my own people. At first he got very angry, as did his father and mother but I kept on pleading with them, telling them that I wished to see my own people again before I died. I really was ill and I suppose they could see that for themselves because one day after I cried for a long time, the young sasquatch went outside and returned with leaf full of tree gum. With this he stuck down my eyelids as he had done before. Then he again lifted me to his big shoulder."

"The return journey was like a very bad dream for I was light headed and in much pain. When we re-crossed the wide river, I was almost swept away; I was too weak to cling to the young sasquatch but he held me with one big hand and swam with the other. Close to my home, he put me down and gently removed the tree gum from my eyelids. When he saw that I could see again he shook his head sadly, pointed to my house and then turned back into the forest.

The New Era, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386 September 15, 2004

Big Foot believers gather at Longbow to share info, stories about mystery

By Sean C. Morgan
Staff Writer

For 50 or so visitors to the Sweet Home area, the legendary bigfoot is as real as any bear in the woods.

Most of them have seen or heard enough to make believers out of them. Often, they had no interest in bigfoot until they crossed paths with the creature.

The elusive creature is called by many names throughout the world. Perhaps the most famous is the yeti or abominable snowman of the Himalaya Mountains. Even in the United States, it is called by several names, including sasquatch and the skunk ape in Florida.

Native American legends tell stories about bigfoot, and the first reported sighting among European settlers was in the early 1800s.

Sweet Home is right in the middle of prime bigfoot country. According to the Bigfoot Research Organization's (BFRO) website, California and Washington have had more sightings, but its sightings database lists four encounters in Linn County since the 1970s, two near Gates, one along the Pacific Crest Trail in the Willamette National Forest and one in Scio.

Bigfoot delights researchers and investigators by making an appearance in their camp. Don Strom of Olympia, Wash., is inside the bigfoot suit.

It listed none in the Sweet Home area, but that doesn't mean Sweet Home hasn't had its share of bigfoot sightings. While they have not reported their sightings to the BFRO, some local residents sometimes share stories of sightings and odd sounds and incidents.

The International Bigfoot Society chose Longbow Organization Camp on the Sweet Home Ranger District for its annual camping trip. Visitors came from as far as British Columbia and San Francisco as well as Sweet Home.

"Once a year, we like to get together and exchange notes and have people talk about bigfoot," President Ray Crowe of Portland said. The organization started meeting annually about 10 years ago. This is the second year it has met at Longbow.

The International Bigfoot Society web page, www.internationalbigfootsociety.com, has about 1,500 sighting reports from Oregon, but the page was down over the weekend. Crowe expected it to be back up soon.

Crowe has never seen a bigfoot, he said, although he has seen plenty of evidence the ape-like creature does exist. His interest in bigfoot was piqued when he wanted to write a short story and talked to a couple of Native American friends. They told him about a group in Clark County, Wash.

Running a used bookstore at the time, he did some reading and research then hooked up with the group on a trip into rural Clark County. The group told him quite a bit about bigfoot. He didn't like the group much and eventually separated from them. The group wasn't gone but a few minutes

when Crowe found tracks, broken trees and red hair.

"There was so much that I thought I was being set up," Crowe said. "It took me several more things before I believed in bigfoot."

His Native American friends didn't care for the other group much either, and they suggested Crowe start his own bigfoot research group, the Western Bigfoot Society. With growing international membership, the organization changed its name.

Of the 50 persons who were in and out of the campout over the weekend, Crowe said, probably 20 of them had seen a bigfoot.

Bigfoot is the crux of a long-running controversy. Skepdic.com has links to stories about how a California prankster and business owner made giant feet and walked around heavy equipment at a work site. When workers found the prints the next morning, it turned into a news story and turned bigfoot into a nationwide topic of interest that has spanned some 50 years.

Another link discusses the veracity of 1967 footage, called the "Patterson Film." Skeptic Greg Long recently released a book attempting to debunk the film, with one man coming forward and claiming to be the person inside a bigfoot suit. Another man came forward claiming to have made the costume. The well-known footage shows an alleged female bigfoot walking around in front of a timberline.

People are polarized about bigfoot, Crowe said. They often don't believe the creature exists "until they see it for themselves."

"We think it's natural, like a deer or an elk," Crowe said. It has lived here all along despite some scientists aruging vociferously that it doesn't exist because "there are no apes in North America."

Guest speakers at the campout included several researchers and bigfoot authors.

Chris Murphy talked about his efforts to create a bigfoot exhibit in the Vancouver Museum.

"It's not easy to get sasquatch into a museum, especially a government museum," Murphy said. He started by putting a presentation together. As the presentation was coming together, he contacted the museum, which was in the middle of sasquatch country but had nothing about sasquatch.

He ended up with an overwhelming response and developed the exhibit, which includes casts of footprints, hair and other items.

Murphy also is involved in taking on Long's book and arguing that the "Patterson Film" is genuine following much analysis of the film.

He also has written a 50-page supplement to the Patterson book explaining what has happened since the release of the footage. He compares the length of the creature's arms and legs, noting the articulation of the hands and the detail of the creature's muscles and tendons in the footage, to the actor who claimed to be bigfoot.

Murphy insists, after his research, that the footage is genuine.

Joyce Kearney of San Francisco related what she has learned from her research into Indian legends about bigfoot. She found that most Indian legends paint bigfoot as dangerous. Indian experiences with big foot were similar to those experienced today, brief and fleeting encounters that were unexpected.

Some tribes believed they were humans who had shapeshifted into the form of sasquatch.

Most of the legends don't include the paranormal though, Kearney said. For 90 percent of the tribes, fear and loathing described their feelings toward the creature. Many legends cast humans as the hero and the bigfoot as the cannibalistic villain, kidnaping women, raping and killing.

There were exceptions, Kearney said. The Cherokee had conflicting legends. The only tribes describing the bigfoot as benevolent were the San Carlos and White Mountain Apaches. Other soutwestern tribes, like the Navajo and the Zuni, did not like bigfoot, one legend referring to a specific bigfoot known as "he who kicks people off cliffs."

Thomas Steenburg of British Columbia often investigates reports of sightings. His most recent investigation was a May 10 sighting of bigfoot near Merritt, B.C., by a man named Tim Martindale.

He was traveling northeast toward Camloops to pick up his wife when "he saw two figures off to the righthand side of the highway in a swampy area," Steenburg said. At first he thought it was a man and his son, but as he got closer, he could see they weren't human. He estimated their height at about eight feet and five feet, eight inches.

As he drove by, they glared at his car, and from the look on the smaller one's face, he was sure it would have killed him. It had a look of pure rage. He didn't tell his wife about what he saw until he passed the area on the way back.

Steenburg tracked Martindale down after seeing a report eventually on the BFRO website, www.bfro.net.

"I went there, and we had a good look around," Steenburg said. They turned up no evidence that bigfoot was there, but he believes the man.

"He did strike me as being honest," Steenburg said. "Before this happened, he had no interest in the subject."

He told Steenburg that he owed him and everyone else researching bigfoot that he owes them an apology for disbelieving.

"I've been obsessed with it ever since I was old enough to read," Steenburg said. He became most interested after sneaking into a theater to watch "Legend of Boggy Creek" and started actively researching bigfoot in 1978.

He helped Murphy put together the "Meet the Sasquatch" exhibit at the Vancouver Museum.

He has yet to see a bigfoot himself, but he enjoys investigating sightings.

Jason Valenti has been working with researchers in Washington east of Everett. Those researchers recently recorded some "impressive vocalizations." Valenti played the recordings for the society members. The nosies ranged from owl-like hoots to screams and shrills with screeches

sound loosely like the siren
at the Fire Hall.

In one recording, he said, two of the researchers angered a bigfoot. The recording includes an expletive as the researchers scrambled for their car trying to escape a bigfoot charging through the woods toward them.

He is working in an area but won't disclose the location yet where 12 to 20 eyewitness reports flooded in of people being terrorized in the pouring rain by a sasquatch.

"Almost every night I go out, I hear things I can't explain."

The video shows a red dot moving in front of his car.

Valenti said. "We're real close."

Valenti hopes to capture a high-quality image of a bigfoot, and he thinks he'll do it soon. He showed a video of what he believed to be a bigfoot crossing a road at night in front of his car.

"My people were all wildly excited when I stumbled back into the house for they had long ago given me up as dead. But I was too sick and weak to talk. I just managed to crawl into bed and that night I gave birth to a child. The little one lived only a few hours, for which I have always been thankful. I hope that never again shall I see a sasquatch."

That is Serephine Long's story, the only one on record of a sasquatch ever abducting an Indian girl. I could relate more instances concerning the wild giants of British Columbia - seemingly well-attested cases that I have collected over a period of many years - but in this article the few I have recounted must suffice.

Is it possible that primitive hairy giants still inhabit the mountain solitudes of British Columbia? Scientists and others may scoff at the very idea, but many Indians are sincerely convinced that sasquatch - or at least a few of them live to this day in the vast, unexplored interior. And like my Indians, I also believe.

© J.W. Burns, Indian Agent Chehalis Indian Reservation.

Published in "*The Wide World, a Magazine for Men*" January 1940. Vol 84 No. 502

The illustrations and photographs of the witnesses and area were not such that I could scan them.

* Ray Crowe comments: There are many similar stories of abduction. Mary Green's book tells of the violent rape of a 14 year old girl. Another informant says he believes the Bigfoot killed a boyfriend and raped his girlfriend before killing her in Oklahoma. Later, unexplained, two sets of semen were found. The same informant tells of Native Americans, the females during their monthly cycles being restricted to huts on the outskirts of the tribe...had to have a guard to keep the sasquatch from abducting the ladies. Also, he has found evidence where animals may have been sexually violated by the creature.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net>

Monster 'plagued' Miami County residents

The Peru Tribune Peru / IN | Pete Jones - Sep 08.04

There's nothing like a good monster story to quicken the pulse and excite the imagination. Monster stories have cropped up in several Indiana localities through the years, but I know of none closer to home than Converse.

In August 1904, newspapers in Miami County carried stories of a monster which was heard but not seen in a swamp about four miles northwest of Converse. "On the back end of a farm belonging to Frem Pence, is a large swamp overgrown with trees and underbrush of all descriptions, "said the Miami County Sentinel. It was there, according to residents, that a neighbor and her daughters were picking raspberries in the swamp when "They were suddenly startled by a number of unearthly screams ... Their dog emitted a few yelps, then tucked his tail between his legs and left the swamp on the dead run."

Later in the day, the woman's husband armed himself and started into the swamp to see for himself what horrible creature lived there. He didn't spot the monster, but he did find two large hogs which he thought had been killed by the creature. The next week two other women went to the same spot to hunt berries and they, too, were frightened by loud, strange noises. "One of the women makes the claim that she saw a big black object beyond a clump of bushes from which the blood-curdling noise came," said the Sentinel. Farmers searched the swamp again and again but found no monster. Yet thestory - as such stories often do - was told through the years.

* Joe Beelart reported that a Hispanic worker was doing house siding on a friends house, and noted a plaster cast thru the window. Knowing what it was, he showed them some photos taken on the Tualatin River, between Tualatin and West Linn, OR, three years ago (2001). One photo had a Bigfoot kneeling down and scooping water with his hands; another showed two in the brush, and a third had one coming out of the trees. Joe saw them and said they were good, no way faked. The fellow left them for reprinting, but almost immediately came back for them...his name was on them, and being possibly illegal, he didn't want the info spread. Joe's trying to re-contact the fellow through his siding job.

* Esty Cochran report. From near Redding, CA. Hunters, Ronnie Johnson and son, saw a hairy BF 30 years ago (1974). It was menacing them, and dad shot his .22 in the air to scare it away. It kept coming, and he shot the creature...hit it, and it never had any effect, so the two got outta' there

* Subject: Texas BF Report Via the Anomalist: <http://www.anomalist.com/> Internet Edition, September 15, 2004. County resident bares witness to Bigfoot

By JASON GIBBS - From Dallas to Brownsville and beyond, Bigfoot hunters are focusing their eyes on El Campo. Since the Leader-News published a report of a sasquatch sighting in Matagorda County, an anonymous West Wharton County resident has reported peculiar goings-on just outside the city limits.

Last weekend, representatives from the Texas Bigfoot Research Center said they were contacted by a local family who said they were inspired by the newspaper report to call in their own recent experience. "We received a good sighting report from an El Campo resident after they read the article," said Craig Woolheater, a representative of the TBRC. The sighting occurred just over a week ago, about 10 p.m. on Aug. 31, he said. The center is devoted to tracking reports from eyewitnesses who believe they have seen a large, ape-like mammal, roaming in fields and forests throughout the state.

Its existence has yet to be proven through scientific methods, but the center believes the creature to exist.

The center reported the following account just outside the city limits. The account – which comes on the heels of a similar sighting in Matagorda County – can be found at the research center's Web site at www.texasbigfoot.com.

According to the reportee – who, for their own reasons, chose to remain anonymous – "I was sitting out on the porch around 10 p.m. on Tuesday night. My dogs, a lab mix and a pit bull, started acting strange and growling." The reportee said they heard a noise coming from a darkened area near the house.

"It sounded like something heavy stepped on a piece of tin that is over there on the ground," they reported. The woman summoned his husband, who grabbed his pistol and went to investigate.

"As my husband was coming out the door, our pit bull ran inside the house very scared," the witness reported.

The quality is low, but Valenti hopes to improve the quality of the image and lighten to see if there is a visible form.

"I'm working with a lot of people," Valenti said. "Hopefully, within the next few months, I'll have some real hard evidence."

Valenti never really thought about bigfoot much until, at age 25, he saw a pure white bigfoot on the side of the road. He later learned there had been two other sightings of a white bigfoot in the area. The sighting changed his life completely, and he's been tracking bigfoot since then.

"I might be able to get one on film very clearly," Valenti said. "I think I might be able to do it."

Thomas Powell, a science teacher and author of "The Locals," a book about bigfoot, works around his home county, Clackamas. He brought a collection of casts of bear prints and bigfoot prints, along with a bigfoot hand print and bigfoot skat.

These things are common, and people don't need to go far to find them.

"I wouldn't cross the street to pour plaster into a footprint," Powell said. "I guess I outgrew that. I don't need to prove it to myself, and it hasn't managed to convince the rest of the world that we're not all nuts. I've just quit doing things that seem futile."

Instead, Powell works in the field, camping in remote places and spending time outdoors rather than trying to prove bigfoot exists.

Chris Murphy tells the Bigfoot Society about his new supplement to an older book about bigfoot and the work he did in setting up the "Meet the Sasquatch" exhibit in the Vancouver Museum in British Columbia. Members of the society came together at Longbow Organizational Camp to share information over the wekend.

It's what he would enjoy doing anyway, but he continually tries to draw out bigfoot in a long-term process where he hopes to build a rapport with them, making them comfortable with him.

He brings food, fruits and such, and leaves them behind in a form of gifting.

Sightings happen in the rural fringe, Powell said, but sasquatch activity is bolder in the wilderness.

When looking for signs of bigfoot, he said, "look for something out of place, something that's atypical." Perhaps in the distance, though there's no wind, a tree may be shaking violently. Other signs might be twisted trees.

"I've yet to get one to step out of the woods and want to shake my hand," Powell said, but the first night is probably the most important night to pay attention.

"It's like they know you're there," Powell said. "Something will case the camp the first night."

A camper might hear a stick snap then the sound of something retreating into the woods.

About half the time, his gifts disappear while he's there. He tries to put his gifts out to rule out the possibility of other creatures taking it. That means putting it in a bag or hanging it from a tree.

He recommends holding off on using electronic equipment until a rapport is established. Bring out the cameras and electronic devices too quickly, and the sidewalk will roll up.

While he would like an eyeball sighting, "right now I'm still in the rapport-building stage," Powell said. People don't need to go far to start doing the same thing themselves. He advises those looking for bigfoot to "take it slow. These creatures are very wary."

"We stood there on the porch for a little bit when suddenly this grayish animal that looked like an overgrown monkey jumped up on the corner of a refrigerator that was lying on the tail end of my husband's trailer. "It was stooped over and very fast. My husband fired his pistol toward the ground just as (it) started to run off very fast." The sheriff's department confirmed a deputy was summoned to an El Campo home along U.S. Business 59, near the Garden of Memories cemetery. The deputy was unable to locate anything suspicious and departed the scene about 20 minutes later. The report states the creepy critter was "grayish and had a man-like face, but it's nose was flatter than a human nose." It was about five feet tall, they added.

According to the center's investigator, the deputy reported the male witness was "disturbed and shaken, but very sober and clear-minded," at the time of the sighting. "I know you're going to think I'm crazy, but I am not and I have not been drinking whatsoever," the witness reportedly told the deputy.

* Bill Green, I'm Lottie from Maine...
I had written down my report to myself and can't find it right now, but I believe that the sighting was on August 6, 2004. I was in the car, my dad was taking me to a doctor appointment that morning, I think around 9:30? There is a field on the road where the airport runway crosses over the road. On the right side heading into Presque Isle, I was looking for moose as we have a lot of them up here, however I had never seen one in that particular field before. But that morning I did see something large and brown and immediately thought it was a moose, but as we got closer I realized that yes, it was very large, but no , it was not a moose as it walked upright. It was brown all over and walked on two legs. I wondered if it could by chance be a worker of some kind but it looked all brown and hairy and I looked for a vehicle and did not see one anywhere.

I could not stop as I was running late, but I sat there thinking about it and it took several minutes of piecing things together that I began to wonder if I had really seen a Bigfoot. I didn't know what else it could be...

I also recall that an old friend of mine had stated emphatically to me that he had seen a Bigfoot cross the road in front of him on a different road, I'm not sure if was in Presque Isle or Caribou, Maine. Mine was sighted in Presque Isle, Maine. I drove by there several weeks later with a camera, due to not having a car of my own right now and limited money I had no film for my camera for a while, so then when I could I took pictures of the area I saw it in. I'll be sending them to you as soon as I can...strange thing is on one of the photos there is something in the sky over the field, not sure if it's a plane or what...
Hope this helps, Lotti

* Bill Green, 21 Sep 04
I went in my local woods early this afternoon I found a possible 15 inch long footprint and I felt like I was being watched but I had no fear in that it was rather nice feeling. The print had five toes on it. No photos were taken of the print. I go out in the field 1or 2 times a week.

ANTHROPOLOGY

Credit: Bobbie Short, Science finds we're not so close to apes after all, By MICHAEL WOODS
Toledo Blade September 29, 2004
- The idea that humans and chimpanzees are almost alike genetically as two peas in a pod may be headed for science's trash bin.

Scientists long have known that chimps are humanity's closest relative. Humans and chimps evolved together, and had a common ancestor until 6 million or 7 million years ago. Then their paths diverged.

One animal built cathedrals, airplanes, computers, and spaceships. The other was content with building nests in trees.

More recently, scientists discovered that the DNA in chimps and humans is about 98.8 percent identical. It suggested that barely 1.2 percent of their DNA keeps chimps from looking and acting human.

Scientists thought that only a handful of genes might differ in humans and chimps. It led to hopes for identifying genes that made humans human - accounting for superior brainpower, the ability to use language and speak, and other traits.

There might even be genes for "human nature" that give animals foresight and noble traits like self-sacrifice.

In addition, those genes could solve medical secrets, like the reasons why apes are resistant to the AIDS virus and other diseases.

New research, however, is cautioning that the genetic gap between humans and chimps may be much wider than 1.2 percent.

Teams of scientists from Europe and Asia have completed the first comparison of a human chromosome and its chimp counterpart.

Chromosomes are packets of genes located in the nucleus of cells throughout the body. Humans normally have 46 chromosomes, and they contain more than 30,000 genes that make up the human genome. Genes, of course, are stretches of the genetic material DNA.

Genes spell out instructions for manufacturing tens of thousands of proteins. These proteins are different than the familiar proteins found in food. Among them are proteins that change one embryo into a human and another into a chimp, make-up body structures, regulate how the brain and other organs work, and do everything that keeps people alive.

As expected, researchers found that human and chimp DNA is very similar, differing by only about 1.4 percent.

However, the DNA that does differ contains 68,000 "insertions" and "deletions." Insertions are extra letters in DNA's instructions.

Deletions are missing letters. Scientists can't always tell the difference, and so term these changes "indels," short for insertions or deletions.

Indels can mean dramatic differences in the proteins that genes produce. A gene with extra letters for instance, may make larger or smaller amounts of a protein or a dud protein that doesn't work at all.

It also may start or stop producing a protein earlier or later in an animal's development than a gene without extra letters.

The differences, scientists concluded, are enough to change about 83 percent of the proteins produced by genes on this one chromosome. If that proves true for the other chromosomes, finding genes that make humans human and apes may be a lot more difficult than once believed.

* From : Ben Blake danegeld2@msn.com
Early human fire mastery revealed, 03 May 2004
By Paul Rincon, BBC News Online science staff

The excavations uncovered numerous flint artefacts
Human-like species migrating out of their African homeland had mastered the use of fire up to 790,000 years ago, the journal Science reports.

The evidence, from northern Israel, suggests species such as Homo erectus may have been surprisingly sophisticated in their behaviour.

The find links earlier evidence of controlled fire from Africa with later discoveries in Eurasia, scientists say.

The researchers say that a wildfire is unlikely to be the cause.

Researchers from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Bar-Ilan University in Ramat-Gan excavated a waterlogged site at Gesher Benot Ya'aqov.

In 34m-thick ground deposits, they found numerous flint implements belonging to the so-called Acheulean tradition of tool manufacture. Some of these were burnt, while other were not.

It's going to make people sit up and think .

Professor John Gowlett, University of Liverpool. The team mapped the distribution of the burnt and unburned artifacts and compared them. Although there was some overlap with the unburned artifacts, the burnt ones clustered together at specific spots at the site.

The researchers think the clusters of burnt artifacts, which date to between 790,000 and 690,000 years ago, indicate the sites of ancient camp fires, or hearths, made by either Homo erectus or Homo ergaster.

It could have been a primitive form of Homo sapiens, they say, but other researchers consider this improbable.

"I believe fire was a very advantageous technology which empowered these humans," co-author Nira Alperson, of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, told BBC News Online.

Some researchers believe the control of fire enabled dramatic changes in human diet, the ability to defend social groups against wild animals and aided social interaction.

'Significant find'

Professor John Gowlett, of the University of Liverpool, UK, said that the find was "very significant".

"Until now we only had two groups of early fire evidence: one in Africa that is more than a million years and one in Europe and Asia that's half a million years," he said.

"So people were rather inclined to say, well, the early group's is probably a natural fire and the later group's is probably a controlled fire.

"The thing about this find is that it lands right in the middle between those two, both chronologically and in area. It's going to make people sit up and think - it blows away any idea that you've got a distinction between the early group and the late group."

Burnt grains of goat grass (Aegilops) were found at the site.

Plant remains at the site suggest the humans burned six types of wood, three of which - olive tree, wild barley and wild grape - are edible.

There is always the possibility the fires could have been natural. But the authors say a number of lines of evidence make this unlikely.

"They've got wood and other material around and that's not all burnt, so if someone said: 'Maybe these are hotspots caused by some big general fire', that's a good answer," said Professor Gowlett.

The fires also occur in lots of layers at the site, suggesting they are close together in time. Professor Gowlett said the body of evidence suggested wildfires were more widely spaced in geological sequences.

Evidence for controlled use of fire has been proposed for burnt bones at the site of Swartkrans in South Africa at 1.5 million years and for patches of dirt at Chesowanja in Kenya at 1.4 million years.

New data on the bones from Swartkrans using the technique of electron spin resonance appear to confirm those dates are correct.

These results were presented at the 2004 Paleoanthropology Society Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada, in March.

IN THE NEWS

* BBC News Online, Manchester. Tracking Down the Jungle Yeti, by David Green,
Two amateur explorers hope to prove the existence of the mythical "jungle yeti" by capturing the creature on film.

Adam Davies, of Bramhall, Greater Manchester, and Andrew Sanderson, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, are travelling to Sumatra in Indonesia to hunt it down.

Three years ago, the pair found a footprint and hairs which, when analysed by scientists, did not match any known species.

They believe it is evidence the orang pendek, as it is called, does exist.

The creature - also known as the Little Man of the Forest - was first chronicled by the explorer Marco Polo in 1292 during his travels in Asia.
Although widely believed to exist by islanders, the creature has been dismissed by most scientists as a myth, similar to the Himalayan yeti or the Loch Ness Monster.

The orang pendek - which is reputed to be related to the orang-utan - is said to measure up to 5ft (1.5m) tall and walk like a man.

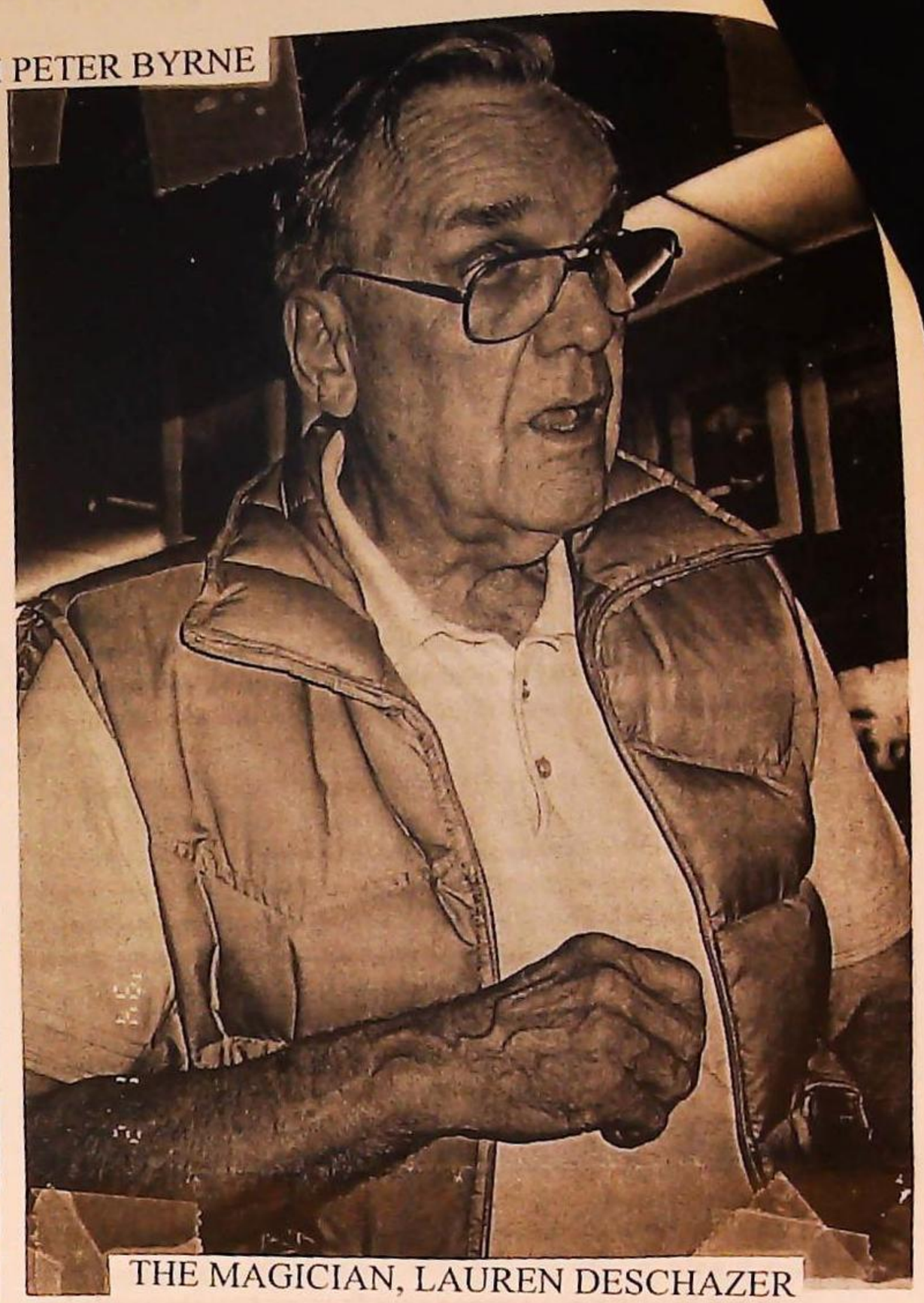
Most alleged sightings have taken place in the areas of Mount Tujuh and Mount Kerinci in the west of the island, where the two explorers made their discovery in 2001.

The footprint and two red-brown hairs were analyzed by Dr Hans Brunner, who helped clear Lindy Chamberlain of murdering her baby daughter in Australia in the 1980s after she claimed it had been killed by a dingo.
He said they were not from a known species, raising speculation that they might just be evidence of the orang pendek's existence.

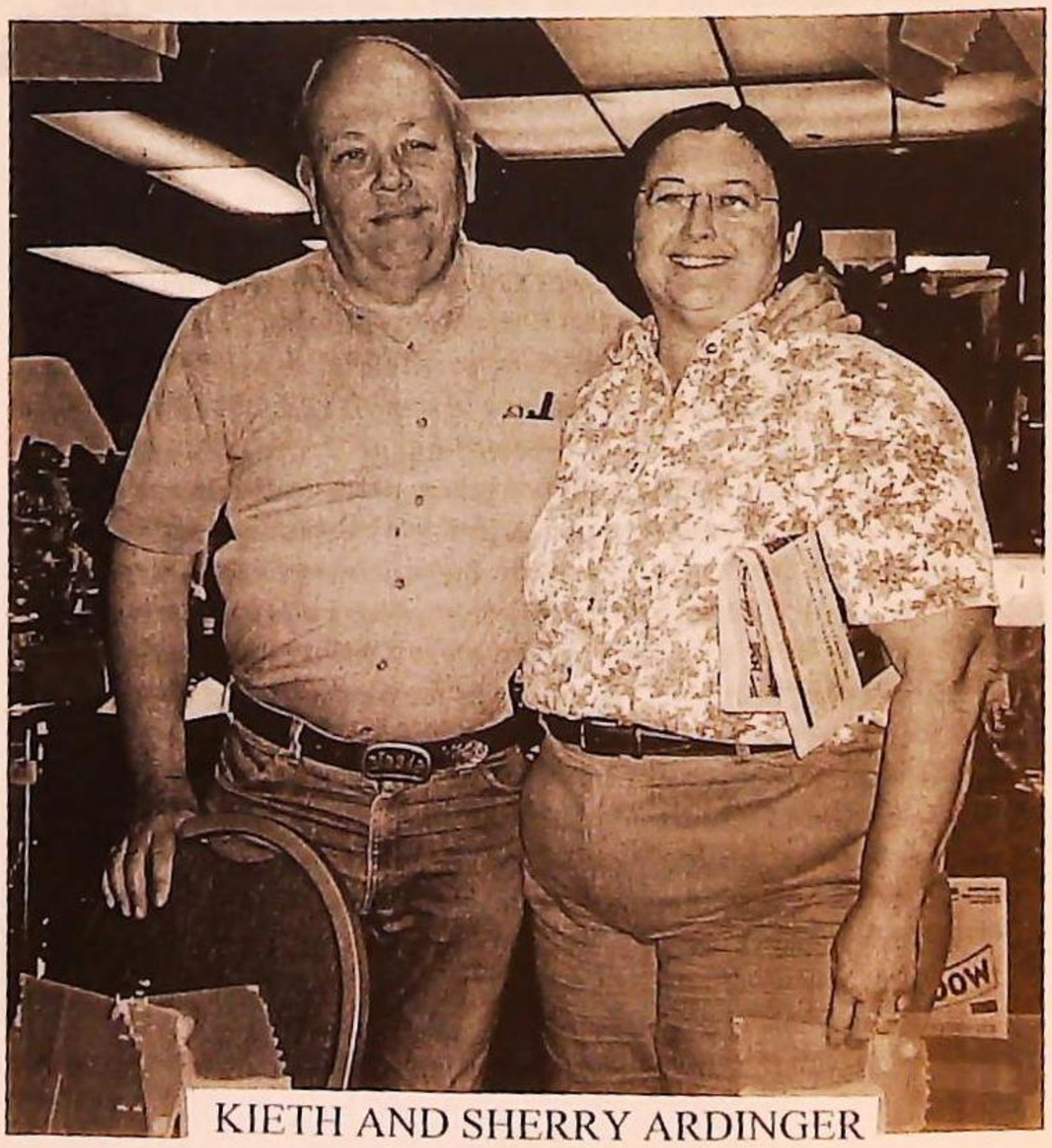
"What we want to do now is capture it on film," said Mr Davies, who spends his holidays hunting down mythical creatures.

"I appreciate it is like looking for a needle in a haystack, but I'm determined to give it a good go."

PB AND WBS TREASURER DIANE DEMERS



THE MAGICIAN, LAUREN DESCHAZER



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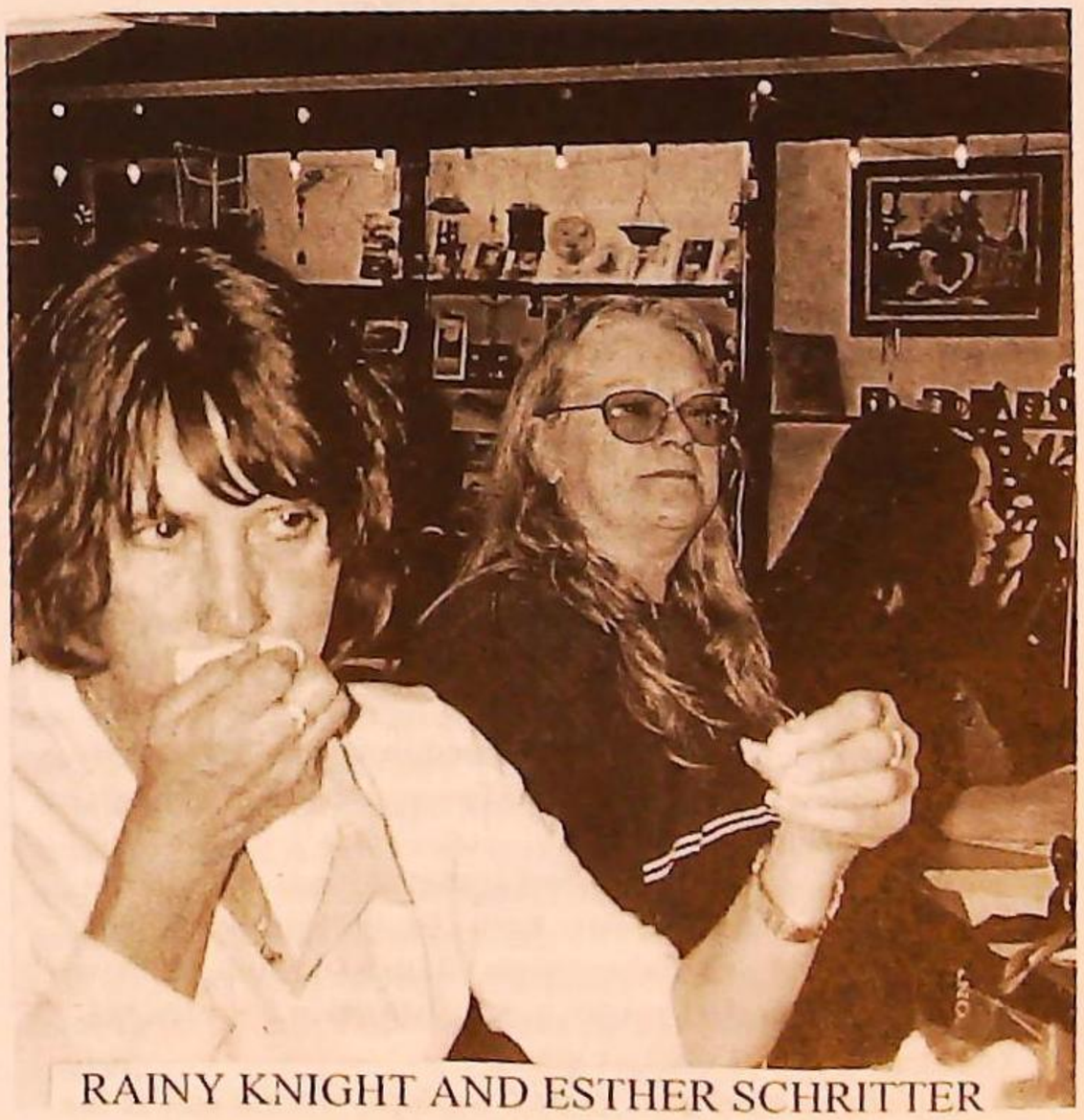


RAINY KNIGHT AND ESTHER SCHRITTER

"We've proved it exists organically and we're delighted about that," he claimed

"The hairs are organic proof. Dr Brunner said they were hairs from an unknown species of primate and that was backed up by a primatologist in Cambridge University who said the prints were also a primate's.

"We're going to publish a scientific paper shortly based on years of research, not only by us but by [conservation group] Fauna and Flora International who have worked out there in Sumatra for many years."

But the future of the orang pendek - if it exists - is threatened by illegal logging which is destroying the jungle habitat, but which many Sumatrans see as their only way of making a living.

Adam hopes that proving the creature's existence will bring the eyes of the world on the island and make the orang pendek a protected species.

"Capturing it on film will light people's imaginations and arouse interest. That's important because that's an area which is under extreme environmental pressure and it will help that area to be preserved.

"But I would just love to see it. Now I know it definitely exists I want to give it a damn good shout at finding it."

The pair's hunt for the orang pendek is just one of many crypto-zoology expeditions they have been on.

Last year, they searched in vain for the Allghoi Khorkhoi - the Mongolian death worm - in the Gobi desert and were arrested on suspicion of being Chinese spies, before being released.

In 1998 and 2000 they searched - again, in vain - for the Mokele M'embe - a dinosaur rumoured to live in the Congo.

"That was our most dangerous trip," remembers Adam. "There was a civil war going on and rocket launchers at the airport in Kinshasa."

The orang pendek expeditions have been by far their most successful ventures, but the pair are still beset by scepticism from the general public.

"It's very easy to be seen as a nutter," admits Adam. "And so we're very careful that anything we do find is analysed independently by scientists." Published: 2004/09/08

MISCELANEOUS

* Pow Wow: The word Pow Wow, or pau wau, means a gathering of people coming together to trade. Explorers misinterpreted the ceremony of medicine men dancing, thinking all natives gathered to sing and dance in this manner.

The modern day Pow Wow evolved from the Grass Dance Societies that formed during the early 1800's. The dances were an opportunity for the warriors to re-inact their brave deeds for all the members of the tribe to witness.

The growth of reservations gave rise to the modern Pow Wow. This was a time of transition for Native peoples across North America. Tribal customs and religions were outlawed. The Grass Dance was one of the few celebrations that was allowed into this new era. The Grass Dance became an opportunity to maintain some of the earlier tribal customs that were vanishing. As other communities and tribes were invited to these celebrations, rights of ownership of sacred items necessary to the Grass Dance were formally transferred from one tribe to another. "Inter-tribalism" began to emerge with the sharing of these songs and dances. Gift-giving and generosity were integral aspects of these early festivities, as they still are today.

The tradition of First Nations dance is ancient. Originally, some dances were performed before the warriors left the tribe to hunt, raid, or do battle. While the men were away, the ladies would prepare their best buckskin dresses and accessories to wear on anticipation of the party's return. This was to show honour and pride for their men. Dances were also performed when they returned, to celebrate their success. As the men arrived into the camp, the women would stand in rows, yelling and trilling for their warrior.

This is the origin of the old style of women's Traditional Dance; standing in one place, keeping time with the drum by moving their feet up and down.

Pow Wow elders have been told by their grandfathers and grandmothers that the men did most of the dancing, only in recent decades have the women been accepted to dance among the men in the sacred circle.

Hand drums and log poles were often used to provide a beat. The tribe was constantly travelling to follow the seasonal migration, making large drums hard to care for and transport. Most songs were passed down from generation to generation; some having special words that belonged to a certain tribe or nation, some containing no words. Each song is sung for a special event. There are special songs sung for traditional and fancy dance, as well as different styles of dancing, such as the Owl Dance Song.

Upon contact with the Europeans, most native cultures were holding pow wows, or gatherings of celebration less and less. The pow wow is a time for renewing old friendships and making new ones. Wars were put aside to celebrate in unison. Trappers and native designers were welcome to set up their ware for the dancers wanting to purchase material and accessories to design their regalia; as it is a great pride to design you own outfit. http://www.crystalinks.com/powwow.html

* CR Kimba D'Michi <kimbasmeow@yahoo.com>

Stalkers on Forked Path-West Coast Sasquatch Establishment Snubs Eastern Research as Amateur By David A. Fahrenthold, Washington Post Staff Writer Friday, October 1, 2004; Page B01

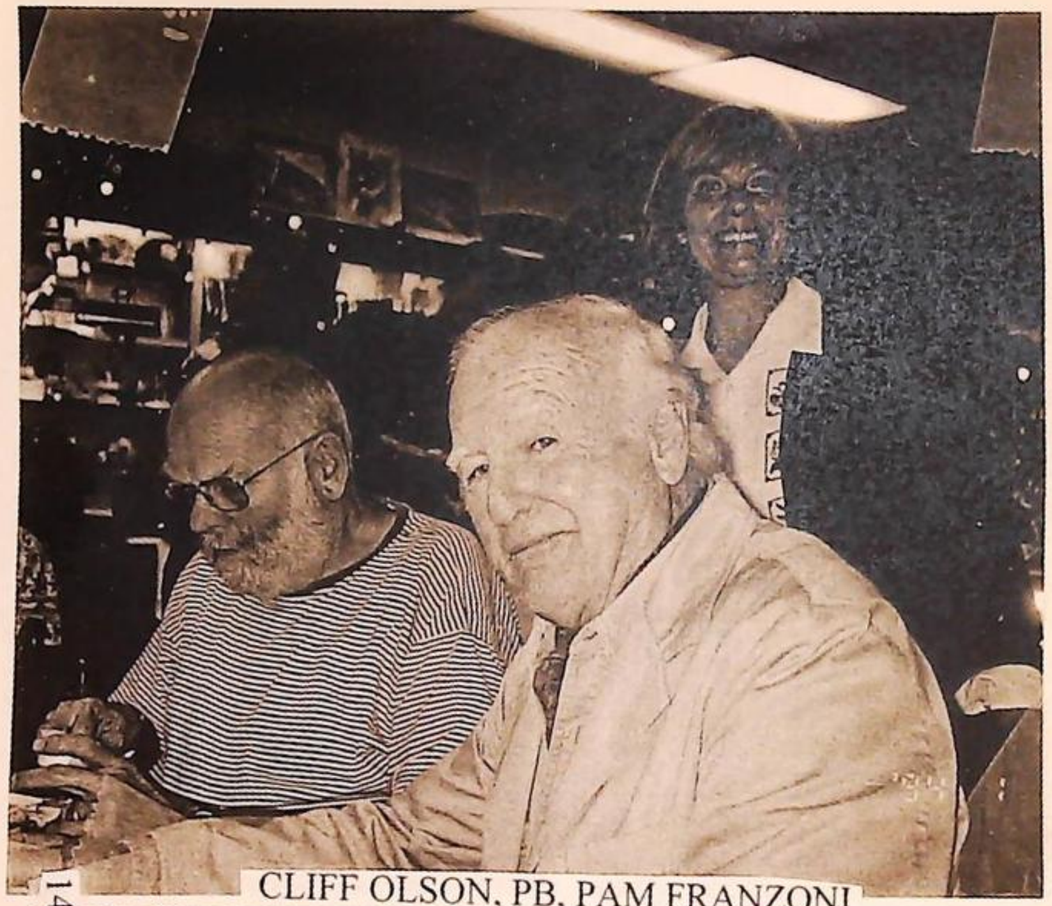
William Dranginis says he saw Bigfoot near Culpeper, Va., on a spring day in 1995. He and two friends were using metal detectors in a field when a seven-foot-tall thing with thick hair and bulging muscles jumped from behind a tree.

Soon afterward, Dranginis reported his sighting to one of the nation's premier Bigfoot researchers in the Pacific Northwest.

The guy laughed at him, Dranginis says. Not because Dranginis was saying that a species of giant primates might be living in America, undetected by modern science.

Dranginis was rebuffed because he was saying they lived in Virginia.

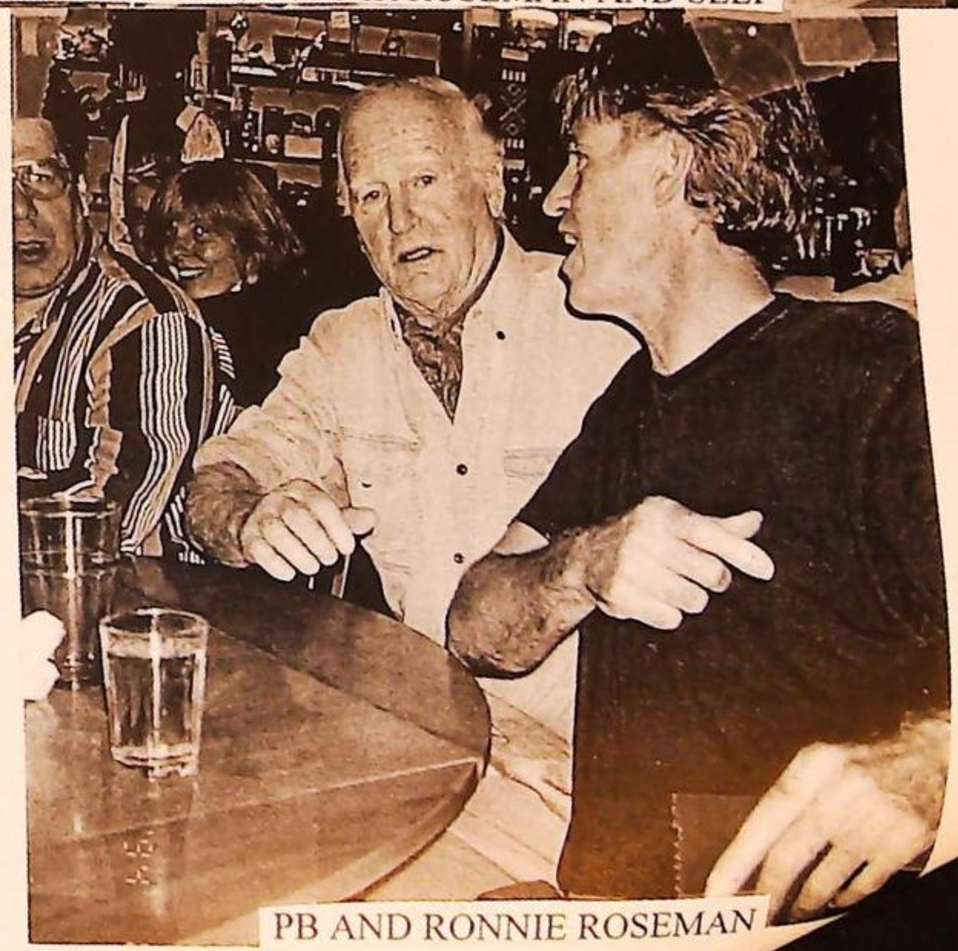
"They basically said I was drinking," Dranginis recalled. " 'Stay out of the woods, you idiot.' "



CLIFF OLSON, PB, PAM FRANZONI

HENRY FRANZONI, RONNIR ROSEMAN AND SELF

JOE, PATTI, BOB, & THOM POWELL



PB AND RONNIE ROSEMAN

It was his initiation into the East Coast Bigfoot hunters, a group whose members say they are a put-upon subculture in the already marginalized world of sasquatch researchers.

On the one hand, East Coast Bigfooters say they have to fight discrimination from western colleagues who think the creature doesn't live east of the Rocky Mountains. On the other, they have to deal with sighting reports from a more urban population, which includes some who are unfamiliar with wildlife and apt to mistake a black bear for the missing link.

Through it all, one thought keeps them going: Something really might be out there -- and somebody in the East might find it first.

"The first carcass gets all the marbles," said Bob Chance of Harford County, Md.

Many of the East's leading Bigfoot experts converged Saturday in Jeannette, Pa., a small town outside Pittsburgh, for the 2004 East Coast Bigfoot Conference.

Anybody familiar with the West Coast's last big conference, the International Bigfoot Symposium in September in Willow Creek, Calif., would have noticed the difference. That convention had an admission fee of $125, three days of events and two barbecue dinners.

The East Coast version, held in an empty nightclub, charged $5 and had someone serving hot dogs in the back.

Still, there was no shortage of true belief. Devotees wore Bigfoot T-shirts and hats, and hawked books and plaster casts of supposed sasquatch footprints.

One of the speakers was Travis McHenry of Norfolk, who said beforehand that he aimed to move the East Coast Bigfoot community closer to the West Coast mainstream on one important point. The point: On the West Coast, many believe Bigfoot to be a flesh-and-blood animal, not a ghost or an alien. But he did offer this compromise: Couldn't there be ghosts of dead Bigfoots roaming around as well?

This kind of talk reinforces the view of researchers in the West that the East is an amateur scene, said Matt Moneymaker of California, who heads the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization.

"They're kind of at the stage where Bigfoot research . . . had been stuck in, like, the mid-'80s," he said.

The West's Bigfoot movement is older and larger and provided some of the movement's most cherished evidence, including many footprints and a famous 1967 film purporting to show a Bigfoot walking through a California forest.

But folks on the East Coast say there is no shortage of sightings here. Mark Opsasnick, an author from Prince George's County, notes in his Maryland Bigfoot Digest that hairy beasts were spotted near Baltimore in the 1970s: the Sykesville Monster in 1973, the Harewood Park Monster in '76 and a string of sightings in Harford County.

More recently, construction workers building Arundel Mills in Hanover in 2000 said they saw a 12-foot-tall animal with glowing red eyes in nearby woods.

For those intent on finding the creature, however, "sasquatchery" in the East is not easy.

First, there is the time constraint: They need hours to spend in the woods looking for evidence. But most everybody has a day job. Dranginis designs surveillance equipment, Chance sells Christmas trees, and McHenry is an intelligence analyst for the Navy.

Another problem, the researchers say, is that many people in the East aren't familiar with either the Bigfoot legend or the forests the creature might inhabit. McHenry recalled one woman who called to say she saw a werewolf.

He and others reassured her that it was probably a sasquatch. "She was glad, because to her Bigfoot was something more real than a werewolf," he said.

Then there are the insults from their Western counterparts, who scoff at the notion that the same species of sasquatch spotted there -- or perhaps a three-toed cousin called the skunk ape -- might live on the East Coast.

But the biggest difficulty of Bigfoot-watching, here and in the West, remains the elusiveness of the quarry.

Nobody knows this better than Dranginis. After being snubbed when he tried to report his sighting, the Manassas man used his expertise in surveillance to turn a minibus into the $50,000 Mobile Bigfoot Research Lab.

The vehicle, with the license plate VA YETI -- a reference to the Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas -- has infrared cameras and night-vision cameras on board. Dranginis also has tiny cameras and microphones that can be left in the woods. He has spent years deploying this equipment. So far, no Bigfoot.

Instead, Dranginis says he has found clues that might be near-misses: a leaf placed over his camera lens, a clump of smelly, red hair on the forest floor.

"I came on board thinking I could solve this problem in a couple years," he said. "But they end up winning."

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net>

From The Independent (UK):Open season on Sweden's 'monster of the lake' September 08 2004

Stockholm - Sweden's Storsjon Monster, the mythical inhabitant of Storsjon Lake, will soon be fair game for hunters and curio-seekers as its protected status is about to be lifted, local authorities said on Wednesday.

Named after the stretch of water it "inhabits", the monster is Sweden'sanswer to Scotland's Loch Ness Monster, Norway's"Selma" and Argentina's"Nahuelito".

The legend dates back at least to the 1600s and tells of a huge black serpent with a cat-like head. But a snake-like beast is also depicted on a Viking rune-stone from hundreds of years earlier on an island in the middle of the lake.

Now the law protecting the beast, in place since 1986, is to be lifted after a request from a local man for permission to collect its eggs forced local authorities to acknowledge they lack scientific evidence that it is a valid species.

"We do not question the Great Lake Monster's existence - of course we believe it exists," Peter Lif, head of legal affairs for the region of Jamtland told reporters. "But we find ourselves forced to lift its protection."

He encouraged believers in the monster to take advantage of the change in the law to catch the beast humanely and prove its existence.

"We encourage everyone to come here and search for the monster so that we can establish valid protection," he said.

* Russian researcher visits Overton County in search of answers on Bigfootby Jill Thomas - Herald-Citizen Staff

When Mary Green and her husband, John, moved to Dodson's Branch in 1963 they settled into a small trailer home in an isolated area near Rickman.

As time passed strange things kept happening.

"I had two small children and my husband was working nights. I'd see large figures walking by under the porch light. And several times late at night I heard someone come into the trailer and rummage around. I reached for our shotgun each time and yelled for them to get out or I'd shoot!" she said.

After a minute she'd hear the door close. They always left when she yelled out.

As the years passed the odd things kept happening.

After the Greens built their house, someone kept breaking into the basement. Sometimes there'd be an acrid, bitter stench in the air when Mary went down there. The freezer downstairs was sometimes cleaned out - especially of meat. They'd hear screaming at night from the woods.

One morning her daughters were playing along Little Spring Creek when they spotted a huge, tall, hairy man who actually growled when he saw them.

"My daughter was about 12-years-old and was scared to death," Mary said.

The family would occasionally spot the man and others like him, but for the most part family members just kept alert and tried to avoid going into the woods.

Eventually they thought they knew who the intruders were, but they kept pretty quiet about their theories.

"People would have thought we were crazy," she said.

Mary Green and her family had moved into one of numerous areas in the US reputed to be a populated habitat for Sasquatch, a possible descendent of Cro-Magnon man, who is known in this country as Bigfoot.

She went on to write and publish her account of her experiences in a book entitled "Bigfoot at My Door."

Possible sightings of the beast have occurred in Middle and Eastern Tennessee. Locally they have been reported at Standing Stone State Park, Livingston, along the Cumberland River in Jackson and Clay Counties, Pickett County, and in Fentress, White and Putnam Counties, said Green.

"No one will call this by its right name," Mary said. "You don't dare tell your friends, 'I saw Bigfoot!'"

But a Russian researcher on "Almas" - the Russian word for 'wild man' has come to this part of the world because, among Bigfoot enthusiasts, Tennessee has history of Sasquatch sightings.

Igor Bourtsev, who has sought evidence of Bigfoot for 40 years, spent three days investigating the Rickman area this week and spent nearly three weeks investigating a farm in Monroe County on the eastern edge of Tennessee where a Bigfoot clan is supposed to have lived for generations.

He went down Friday to meet with a television crew from National Geographic to go over the farm's history.

But it was his trip to Overton County that animated the Russian researcher.

Mary Green, along with researcher Wayne Murphy, and Bourtsev spent Monday and Wednesday mornings in Overton on a trip that produced evidence to them that Bigfoot was present in relatively substantial numbers.

"Igor saw things in the woods that I've looked for for years," Mary said.

One of those "things" was a formation made out of trees that had been bent and twisted to form a sort of crisscross shape about five feet in the air.

"I've seen those in Russia, too," Bourtsev said.

"We think they may be directional signals for the members of the clan," he said.

Mary disagreed.

"I've only seen them when they're near a structure of some sort. I think they're warning signals that a human building is nearby," she said.

Whatever the formation means, the team was enthusiastic about the find.

And they said they knew that there were individual members of the Bigfoot clan nearby because they were pelted with rocks from the trees.

But while the rocks were real enough, no one could catch a glimpse of the rock throwers.

Only one recording has ever been made that contained images that were recognizable, controversial footage taken in 1967 in California by an ex-rodeo rider, Roger Patterson. His film was debunked as a fraud by the Smithsonian, but Russian authorities later said it was authentic.

Bourtsev was present at the first showing of the film in Moscow and it was one of the reasons he continued his search for proof positive of the animal that some people think might be a descendent of apes and others think might be a mutant strain of Cro-Magnon man.

"Americans have a big achievement with this film," Bourtsev said.

"But the American scientific community does not accept it. I want to prove this film to be real.

"Right now only Russia thinks it's real. America ignores the conclusions. But we have proved that Americans made a great film. I hope National Geographic will help us prove its authenticity," he said.

Mary Green has some photos of Bigfoot on her website, but few have images of Bigfoot that are recognizable to the untrained eye, although researchers used to viewing such photos can obviously pick out more details.

She has her own opinion about why there are so few photographs of the huge primitives that have sometimes lived alongside humans for decades.

"No one has been able to set a trap to photograph Bigfoot. He always surprises people so that they're unprepared and then very nervous," she said.

Even the Patterson film is of poor quality and Patterson told of not being prepared and having to grab his camera and race after the creature to get the images.

Bourtsev, like many other Sasquatch watchers, didn't start off thinking he'd spend his life tracking down what many consider to be a mythical figures.

Instead he had a normal life in Russia, graduating with a degree in history and studying Uzbekistan. Then friends invited him on an expedition to search for Almas.

"I like adventures," he said, smiling.

What he saw and learned on that expedition kept him occupied for the next 30 or so years.

There seems to be an instant and ongoing fascination with Sasquatch when people come face to face with something they thought was only a myth.

Had a long phone call from Tom Burnette, author of "Nature's Secret Agents,"1999, PO Box 585, Old Fort, NC 28762, $9.95 + $2.00 P&H. Here's another in a lengthening series of books concerning habituating of the Bigfoot creature. Over a long period of time, Burnette has left food for the creatures who came often to his house in rural North Carolina.

Arraigned as a diary, the day to day accounts have been recorded, sometimes hilarious, sometimes frightening...Tom remains scared of the creatures.

I find I have underlined almost as many passages in this 120 page volume as I have in Mary Green's "50 years with Sasqatch." Be sure to add this one to your collection.

On the phone Tom told of going motorcycling one day with his girlfriend...she wore lots of cologne and perfume. He left her in a clearing as he biked up the hill...and she was grabbed by the Bigfoot, and carried a hundred yards. She had been drinking from a Coke bottle and repeatedly hit the creature and it eventually released her.

CR: LORETTA JAMES
SPOKESMAN REVIEW, 18 OCT 04

New ape

A giant ape unlike any previously seen has been found in a remote area of central Africa, according to a report in the journal New Scientist. Wildlife experts believe the ape, which stands over 6 feet in height and has similarities to both chimpanzees and gorillas, may be a new species of primate. Villagers in the far north of the Democratic Republic of Congo say the apes can be ferocious and are capable of killing lions. But unlike gorillas, which charge upon seeing a threat, the new apes turn around and silently slip away into the forest when encountered. The apes live hundreds of miles from known gorilla populations, and have a diet similar to that of chimpanzees. Scientists are trying to determine if it is a formerly unknown species, or if it is possibly a giant chimpanzee with the behavior of a gorilla.

Wanted:
No Nonsense
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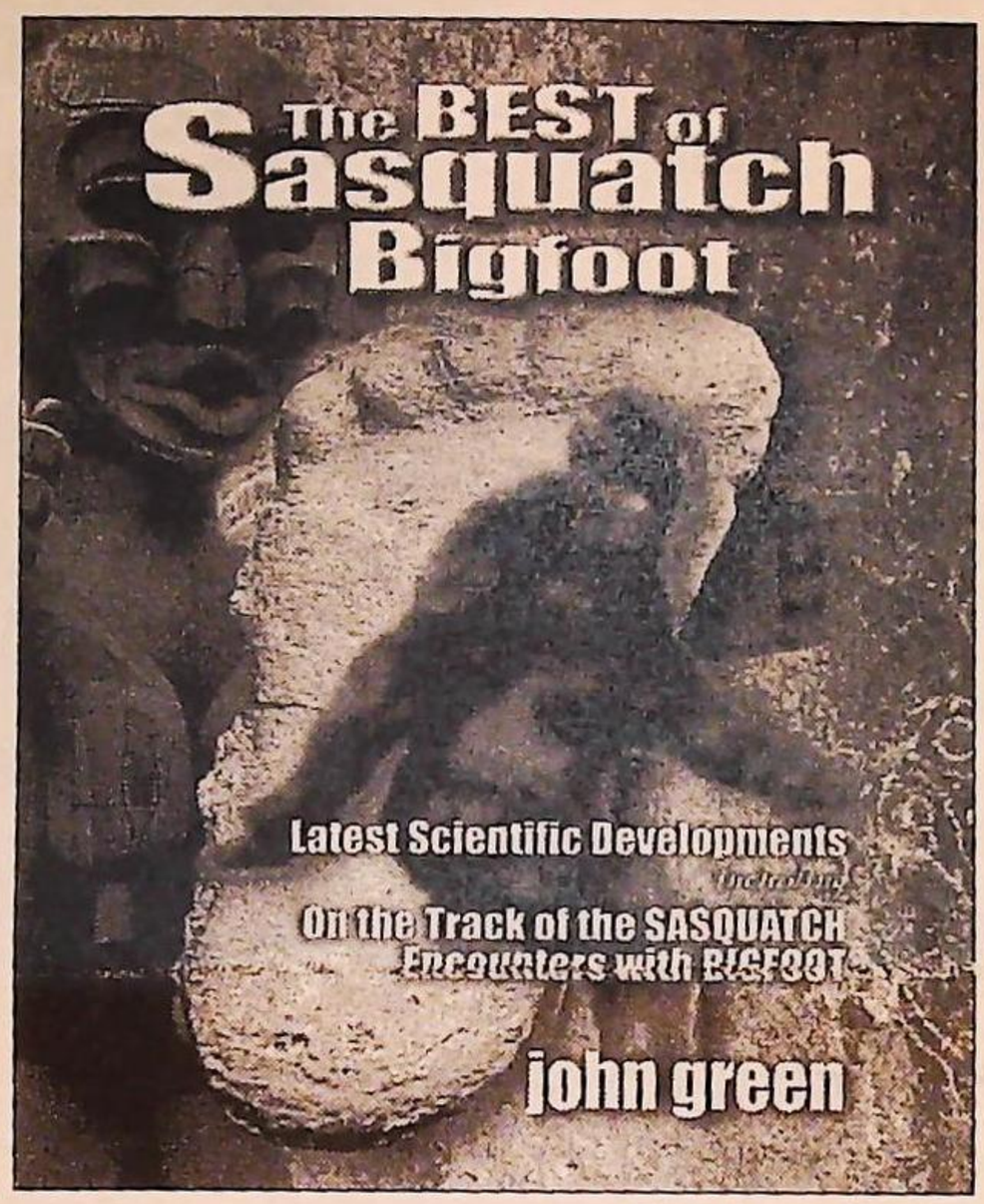
BOOK FOR REVIEW

FromHancock House - Fall 2004

The Best of Bigfoot Sasquatch



By: John Green
ISBN: 0-88839-546-9
Soft Cover, 8.5" X 11"
144 Pages, 120 Pages
22 Illustrations
Price: $15.95

By John Green

The Best of Sasquatch Bigfoot combines legendary Sasquatch Researcher John Green's two best selling titles On the Track of the Sasquatch and Encounters with Bigfoot. This 144 page title includes all the original photos and information of his original titles, with an additonal 16 pages of new material surrounding the recent controversies of the claims of fraud by Ray Wallace and others. John Green is the pre-eminent authority on the fascinating question of whether mankind shares North America with another upright-walking primate, having researched the subject for more than 20 years and assembled a file of more than 2,000 reports. Having been a newspaperman of more than 30 years experience, he is uniquely qualified to be the chronicler of the investigation as well as one of the leading participants. His previous books have sold close to 200,000 copies.

John Green

JOHN GREEN is a retired newspaperman. A graduate of both the University of British Columbia and Columbia University, he became interested in the sasquatch in 1957 while he was owner/publisher of the Agassiz-Harrison Advance newspaper and has spent the past 38 years as one of the most active participants in all aspects of the sasquatch investigation. His personal odyssey has ranged from hunting the sasquatch in the wild to following their trail across the continent, to tracking them by computer, and he has been the leader in the long attempt, only now beginning to bearing fruit, to involve the scientific community in the search..

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